

Tadpoles screaming underwater show unsuspected sentience

BUENOS AIRES—The ethical significance of the discovery that tadpoles scream when threatened may take some time to occur to scientists, ethicists, and animal advocates. A breakthrough in scientific recognition of animal sentience, the finding took more than three years just to win widespread notice after formal publication in a leading journal.

Tadpoles might have been audibly



Froglet evolving from tadpole. (Robert L. Harrison)

screaming when threatened for more than 200 million years before Guillermo Natale, Ph.D. of the National University of La Plata in Buenos Aires, Argentina heard the multi-note metallic sound emitted by tadpoles of the horned frog *Ceratophrys ornata*.

Natale published a brief article about it in 2007 in *Acta Zoologica*, produced since 1920 by the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences & Letters. Then three years passed before Matt Walker, editor of the BBC publication *Earth News*, noticed Natale's article and shared the news of the screaming tadpoles with the world on April 13, 2010. Within a month Walker's write-up was amplified by more than 6,200 other broadcast, print, and web media.

Yet few if any of tens of thousands of online commentators appeared to consider the ethical implications of a finding mostly reported as news of the weird.

"The discovery could have far-reaching implications for our understanding of the behaviour and ecology of amphibians," wrote Walker. But that was as far as discussion of the meaning of Natale's finding appeared to go.

"That tadpoles communicate somehow is simply amazing," said Natale. "They possess the structures to do so within three days of life," Natale told Walker.

"It is the first time any vertebrate larva has been found to use sound to communi-

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Brown pelican in flight. (Kim Bartlett)

Gulf oil spill rescuers prepare & wait

NEW ORLEANS—Almost a month after the British Petroleum drilling platform *Deepwater Horizon* exploded on April 20, 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico, 45 miles southeast of Venice, Louisiana, rescuers from Texas to Florida were still awaiting an anticipated influx of animals from a disaster projected by many experts as perhaps the worst-ever oil spill for wildlife.

"I think we ruined every child's summer in New Orleans, because we bought all the kiddie pools," Louisiana state marine mammal and sea turtle stranding coordinator Michelle Kelley told Associated Press writer

Janet McConnaughey.

"The wading pools have remained stacked," McConnaughey wrote. Also unused were "3,000 extra-large dog crates that were trucked to Venice for the use of boat-based bird rescue crews."

"Every zoo in the country, practically, has offered help," Audubon Nature Institute spokesperson Sarah Burnette said.

The Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, Mississippi prepared to take in "possibly hundreds of oily sea mammals," reported Associated Press writer Brian Skoloff. Institute director Moby Solangi expected to receive sea turtles, manatees, and especially dolphins.

"Solangi said there are up to 5,000 dolphins between the Mississippi and Louisiana coasts and the oil rig, many giving birth right now," wrote Skoloff. Yet the institute's holding tanks were empty.

British Petroleum brought a team from Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research in Delaware to lead the wildlife rescue effort. Arriving in Louisiana on April 26th, Tri-State partnered with the California-based International Bird Rescue Research Center and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to set up bird cleaning stations in Fort Jackson, Louisiana; Theodore, Alabama; Gulfport,

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ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care

About Animals

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U.S. Supreme Court strikes down law that banned cruelty videos

WASHINGTON D.C.—The U.S. Supreme Court on April 20, 2010 by a vote of 8-1 struck down 18 U.S.C. § 48, the 1998 federal law that prohibited interstate sales of video depictions of illegal cruelty to animals.

The law was written to ban "crush videos," a form of pornography in which the participants trample small animals, but the only case brought to court under 18 U.S.C. § 48 was *U.S. v. Stevens*, a 2004 federal prosecution in Pennsylvania of Virginia resident Robert G. Stevens for selling videotapes of Japanese dogfighting and "hog/dog rodeo."

A second case, pending in Missouri, was dropped on April 22, 2010, because the Supreme Court ruling meant it could not be prosecuted. Jarrod Hayn, 38, of Kampsville, was indicted on March 11, 2010 for selling a 40-minute DVD inviting viewers to "Come and ride along with me while I drive on some of the most deer-infested roads in the Midwest and use my vehicle to run them down."

The DVD reportedly shows Hayn hitting deer, mostly in Illinois on his commutes to a job as an Illinois Department of Corrections officer. Attorney Ed Fanning, representing Hayn, told Robert Patrick of the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* that the case cost Hayn the position.

Hayn could not be prosecuted for poaching because the DVD does not identify exactly where or when the deer were killed.

The Supreme Court in the Stevens decision rejected the contention of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Humane Society of the U.S., and the American SPCA that the production, distribution, and possession of images of cruelty to animals should be prohibited under the same narrow exceptions to the First Amendment that were created to ban child pornography by the 1982 Supreme Court ruling in *New York v. Ferber*.

But the Supreme Court largely framed the Stevens verdict as an affirmation of the need for news media and animal advocates to be able to expose cruelty to animals by making use of visual images.

The Supreme Court reasoning paralleled an *amicus curiae* brief submitted by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and 13 other news media organizations, whose arguments were based primarily on uses of undercover video to expose cruelty, including by Fund for Animals founder Cleveland Amory in 1970, and by the Humane Society of the U.S. in recent exposés of slaughterhouse abuses. Altogether, the Reporters Committee

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The Jakarta Animal aid Network has initiated efforts to help the working horses of the Gili Islands in Indonesia. See article on page 12. (Femke den Haas)

Undercover footage of horse slaughter shocks the world

FORT MacLEOD, Canada; FRANKFURT, Germany—Undercover video of horse slaughter in Canada, Mexico, and Brazil, and horse transport for slaughter from the U.S. shocked the world in April 2010, after broadcast by the leading Canadian and European networks and postings of graphic clips to YouTube.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation aired video obtained by the Canadian Horse Defence Coalition three days after networks in The Netherlands, France, and Belgium aired video from Animals' Angels, a 12-year-old organization with offices in Germany, Britain, and the U.S.

"The eight-minute news segment" shown in Europe "was produced by GAIA, a respected animal welfare organization from Belgium," said Animals' Angels USA president Sonia Meadows. "Within hours of the broadcast, supermarkets responded with promises to investigate. Delhaize, the second largest retailer in Belgium, asked their supplier to remove affected meat from their shelves. Two other major grocers told consumers they

do not import horse meat from outside Europe," Meadows added.

Meadows said Animals' Angels' shared evidence about cruelty to horses in slaughter and transportation to slaughterhouses with European Commission members in November 2009. Although Animals' Angels "filed an official complaint with the Commission," little happened until GAIA "asked Animals' Angels for footage from Mexico and the U.S. to help with a European campaign to publicize the conditions endured by horses in the slaughter pipeline. GAIA had recently finished undercover investigations in South America and had gathered their own ample evidence," Meadows explained.

The Canadian exposé brought immediate announcements of investigations by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Alberta SPCA, reported Richard Cuthbertson of the *Calgary Herald*.

However, RCMP Sergeant Patrick Webb told CBC News on May 11, 2010 that

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Editorial feature

Rethinking adoption screening in the computer age

ANIMAL PEOPLE first examined shelter dog and cat adoption procedures in depth in our April 1993 edition. Innovations we helped to introduce have increased the pet acquisition “market share” for adopted animals from about 15% then to more than 25% now. Older animals and animals with disabilities, then rarely even offered for adoption, are now among those who usually find adoptive homes.

Unfortunately, many prospective pet adopters still find the adoption application process unnecessarily intrusive and invasive, much as they did in 1993.

In business the customer is always right, and in facilitating adoptions, competing with breeders and stores that sell animals from puppy and kitten mills, shelters and rescues must realize that they are participants in an increasingly competitive business.

Streamlining pet adoption screening to make adopting animals more pleasant need not require relaxing any meaningful standards. Yet it will require discarding outmoded ideas about how and why adoption screening should be done. This begins with recognizing the nature and magnitude of the changes that have overtaken the adoption universe.

Gina Spadafori, author of the now 27-year-old syndicated weekly column *Pet Connection*, contributed a guest essay to our April 1993 edition introducing our readership to breed rescue networking, a concept which to that point had scarcely been mentioned in humane society and animal rights literature. Members of many dog breed fancies, most of them breeders or former breeders, had begun redeeming dogs of their favorite breeds from pounds and finding adoptive homes for them, but few at that point were working in formal partnership with either the pounds or humane societies.

Shelter personnel tended to regard rescue network people as poachers, who stripped shelters of their most adoptable animals, then collected much higher adoption fees for them than the shelters could, leaving the shelter staff to kill the animals who were left behind.

There was in 1993 only one shelter in the entire U.S. designed primarily to facilitate adoptions, opened in 1991 by the North Shore Animal League. PetSmart Charities had just introduced the in-store adoption boutique concept, although Petco had offered in-store adoptions since 1968. The first adoption centers designed to resemble shopping malls—Maddie’s Adoption Center in San Francisco and the current Wisconsin Humane Society shelter—were still three and six years from completion.

Breed rescuers, often operating through PetSmart adoption boutiques, successfully challenged the entire concept that adoptions had to be done from shelters.

Spadafori pointed out that the first edition of a breed rescue directory, published in 1990, listed about 1,500 participating individuals. The 1993 second edition listed 2,900. Such a directory today might list more than 30,000 individuals who help to foster and rehome animals, working under more than 10,000 organizational affiliations.

The Worldwide Web debuted in 1994. Within a year both rescuers and progressive shelters discovered the value of posting dog and cat photos to the web. An explosion of interest in shelterless dog and cat rescue followed. Though many rescuers remain focused on just one breed of dog, the concept of breed rescue long ago broadened into home-based placement of any animal, including feral cats, who might be rehomed if removed from a stressful environment—especially shelters, but not exclusively—and given individual attention.

Screening the rescuers

There remains considerable tension between shelterless rescuers and the sheltering community. Shelter personnel often still resent rescuers who claim the most adoptable shelter animals, instead of focusing their efforts on the hard cases. Many shelter personnel also dislike the term “rescue” itself, feeling unfairly indicted by the notion that animals have to be “rescued” from agencies that do the difficult and often dangerous work of impoundment, and strive to rehome animals, even if those who are not rehomed promptly are killed.

Rescuers in turn often accuse shelters of needlessly killing animals whom shelter staff deem unsuitable for rehoming, chiefly due to dangerous behavior. Animal control shelter directors, in particular, frequently counter that rescuers often take too cavalier an attitude toward the risks inherent in rehoming potentially dangerous animals.

This is a growing issue, integrally intertwined with adoption screening, as shelters struggle to cope with pit bull terrier intake that for the past decade has accounted for upward of 25% of all dogs received and 50% of all dogs killed in shelters. Pit bull rescuers working to reduce the toll have helped shelters to increase pit bull placements to 13% of all dog adoptions in 2009, compared to 5% of dog purchases made through classified ads.

Ideally, the dogs, the public, and other animals are protected by improved behavioral screening, improved adoption screening, and careful screening of rescue groups, too. As third party liability settlements in nonfatal dog attack cases now exceed \$2 million, the use of screening to try to ensure that adoptions are safe is likely to increase, but whether any sort of screening really works for this purpose is unclear.

Fatal and disfiguring attacks by shelter dogs have soared from none reported between 1989 and 2000, to 17 in 16 months at this writing. Among the dogs involved in the recent attacks were 13 pit bulls, a Rottweiler, a Great Dane, and a Great Dane/Doberman mix. Eight of the dogs, six of them pit bulls, had apparently cleared behavioral screening at shelters, were released to rescuers who had passed screening, and were then rehomed to adopters who passed screening. Yet even these multiple levels of screening did not prevent the injuries.

Shelters and rescuers are also at frequent odds over the tendency of some rescuers to “rescue” more animals than they can actually look after. More than 11,200 dogs and cats required rescue from self-described rescuers in 2007-2009, and 1,915 were impounded in similar cases during the first four months of 2010.

Typically rescuers want to be exempted from having to go through adoption screening for every animal they take, but the experience of many shelters is that rescuers often require continuous supervision to ensure that they do not become animal hoarders.

Despite the ongoing friction, most shelters now work in partnership with some trusted shelterless rescues. Together, the shelter and rescue communities have learned the lesson fundamental to retailing that more points of sale tend to produce greater sales volume. In 1993 there were about 7,500 places in the U.S. where adopters could acquire former shelter animals. There are today upward of 15,000.

Questionnaires vs. credit checking

Cumulatively, shelters and rescues are rehoming about the same number of animals as in 1993—about four million per year— but back then the majority of rehomed animals were puppies and kittens. Today, through the success of dog and cat sterilization programs, puppies and kittens relatively seldom come to shelters. Most of the animals who are rehomed today would have been killed in 1993, or earlier, and are finding homes now through the vastly expanded adoption network, which gives them much more individual attention, promotional exposure, and—most importantly—time to be noticed.

The longest article in our April 1993 edition considered whether use of the then standard 115-question adoption screening questionnaire contributed to high rates of shelter killing. Introduced by the American Humane Association in 1948, the 115-question screen was adapted from a questionnaire probably first used in the late 19th century to try to protect human orphans from exploitation and abuse. Prospective child adopters in the West and Midwest were to complete it in the presence of a clergy member or town clerk who would attest with a seal and signature to the veracity of the information before it was sent by mail to eastern orphanages, who might send back a boy or girl by train.

The questionnaire was dusted off and applied to animal adoption at a time when laboratories were looking toward shelters as a source of inexpensive experimental subjects, and when denied, would often obtain shelter animals by ruse.

In May 1994, in our second long look at adoption technique, ANIMAL PEOPLE published a copy of a 20-question screen developed by then-North Shore Animal League shelter manager Mike Arms. The 20-question screen produced as much useful information as the old 115-question screen. Most pet adoption screening today appears to use locally customized variants of the 20-question screen, though descendants of the 115-question screen are also still in use, usually shortened to about 80 questions.

Arms has for the past decade headed the Helen Woodward Animal Center in Rancho Santa Fe, California. At the North Shore Animal League he boosted annual adoptions from circa 5,000 a year, which then led the world, to nearly 45,000 at peak. Also originator of the annual Pet Adoption at the North Shore and the Home-4-the-Holidays program at the Helen Woodward Center, Arms has helped to facilitate more than a million adoptions in his 44 years in humane work. His innovations in animal display and advertising, emulated by more than 700 PetSmart Charities Luv-A-Pet adoption boutiques, have contributed indirectly to rehoming at least another three million dogs and cats.

But Arms himself no longer favors the 20-question screen. Instead, Arms since 2005 has recommended just asking prospective adopters for a piece of photo identification, such as a driver’s license, plus a major credit card. The photo ID establishes that the person is whoever he or she claims to be. The major credit card enables the adoption agency to run an online credit check. While an adoption counselor helps the adopter to choose and become acquainted with a pet, a data processing clerk quickly accesses all of the information that could be obtained through a lengthy questionnaire—and it is all pre-verified by the agency that compiles the credit history report. If people are negligent about paying their bills, they might be negligent about taking care of a pet, so asking direct questions about their petkeeping knowledge and history may be necessary. If they don’t own their own home, a call to the landlord will be in order to verify that they have permission to keep a pet.

It is also possible to find out within minutes at Pet-Abuse.com if a prospective adopter has ever been charged with cruelty or neglect.

Because most people are used to providing photo ID and a credit card when making even minor transactions, asking for the cards does not seem to be invasive or intrusive. The focus of the adoption interview can be kept on the special needs and personality of the animal the person wants. Rarely are there complications requiring anyone to ask any question more difficult than requesting the adoption fee and perhaps an additional donation.

Arms throughout his career has emphasized making pet adoptions as easy as possible on everyone involved, including the animals. Arms urges shelters and rescuers to ensure that adopting a pet is as convenient and comfortable for adopters as buying a pet from a store or a breeder. The price of driving would-be adopters away, Arms emphasizes, is that instead of acquiring sterilized pets from shelters, the would-be adopters go to a breeder or buy a dog from a puppy mill online or at a pet store.

Arms’ message, vigorously amplified by the Best Friends Animal Society as well as the Helen Woodward Animal Center, has clearly been heard, yet has not always been heeded. Running web searches on the terms “intrusive” and “invasive” in combination with “pet adoption,” ANIMAL PEOPLE editor Merritt Clifton discovered that about half of the relevant postings were from shelters and rescuers describing their own adoption screening procedures. Some were apologetic about asking admittedly intrusive and invasive questions. Many asked prospective adopters for patience and understanding. Quite a few echoed Arms’ teachings in outlining their adoption fee structures—specifically, the adopters should be told how much money is involved in preparing a dog or cat for adoption, should be asked to cover as much of the cost as they can, and should expect to pay more for animals of popular breed and size. Charging higher adoption fees for the animals in most demand helps all the rest to find homes.

But the shelters and rescuers doing intrusive and invasive screening remain convinced that it is necessary. This raises the multiple reasons why adoption screening is done.

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Rethinking adoption screening in the computer age *(from page 3)*

Also featured in our April 1993 edition was the promotion of John Stevenson to head the North Shore Animal League, and the introduction of the North Shore policy of paying for the sterilization of every adopted animal. Though North Shore was far from the first shelter to do this, it was the biggest, and the North Shore action raised the standards for all shelters.

Non-governmental shelters today typically sterilize every animal before the animal is even offered for adoption, but in 1993 most shelters merely required adopters to sign a contract agreeing that they would have the animal they chose sterilized within six months. Adoption screening then and for the preceding 30-odd years often focused on trying to ensure that an adopted animal would be promptly sterilized, since most shelters had no effective means of following up adopted animals to enforce sterilization contracts.

Now that most animals are sterilized before even being offered for adoption, this is less and less an issue. Whole batteries of questions can accordingly be eliminated.

Indeed, Arms points out, all of the traditional questions about who the animal's regular veterinarian will be have become irrelevant. Apart from wanting to be able to verify if an adopted animal was sterilized, shelters and rescues like to be reassured that an animal will receive care if ill or injured. But since the advent of large franchised veterinary clinics, veterinary specialists, and overnight emergency clinics, many of the most caring and responsible pet keepers seldom see the same veterinarian twice. People relocate much more often now than a generation ago, and so do vets.

Much more useful than asking about veterinarians, especially before the adopter even has an animal, is asking the adopter to call the shelter or rescue for a veterinary referral if one is ever needed. A shelter receptionist with a geographically organized list of vet clinics and specialists can do more to ensure that a sick or injured pet gets appropriate help than any amount of adoption screening.

Screening vs. follow-up

The original reason for adoption screening was just trying to ensure that a shelter animal would not be exploited, abused, abandoned, or returned to the shelter after just a short time in a home. Yet another of Arms' discoveries, decades ago, was that traditional screening does little to prevent any of this. Nationally, the adoption failure rate was about 20% before adoption screening was introduced, and 40 years later was still about 20%.

People who exploit, abuse, or abandon animals tend to lie on questionnaires, Arms realized—and often they are much better at giving the answers that adoption counselors want than the counselors are at detecting untruths. Further, people never adopt animals in the expectation that the adoptions will fail, but problems nonetheless occur with pets (regardless of where the pets come from) that the people eventually despair of solving.

Instead of trying to use screening to eliminate mistreatment of animals and shelter returns, Arms introduced adoption follow-ups. His recommended procedure came to include follow-up calls to all adopters, days or weeks after the adoption, to identify any problems and provide remedial help; follow-up visits to the homes of first-time adopters, dropping off a complimentary pet toy, bowl, or leash as pretext for doing a quick informal inspection to see how the animal is looked after; and sending follow-up "birthday cards" annually, to remind adopters of the need for pets to receive wellness examinations and vaccination boosters.

Arms lowered the adoption failure rate at his shelters to less than 5%. Though some shelters and rescues still admit adoption failure rates of as high as 25%, most now provide some adoption follow-up service, and a 5% adoption failure rate is now close to the norm.

Unfortunately, many shelters and rescues get the timing of an in-home visit backward, and make the in-home visit before making the adoption. This often seems invasive and intrusive to the adopter, and tells the adoption agency nothing about the actual care of the animal. The visiting adoption counselor may note the height or absence of fences around a prospective adopter's yard, for example, but will not see whether the animal has frequent access to the yard, or is being left alone in the yard on a tether for most of each day.

Matchmaking vs. adjustment

Over time, screening as practiced by most shelters and rescuers evolved into attempted matchmaking. The idea is to ensure that the pet an adopter chooses is really suitable for the adopter's needs and lifestyle. This approach has some value, but Arms is skeptical if it is taken beyond suggestion, into actually denying a would-be adopter the opportunity to adopt the "wrong" pet. Arms has observed that when animals and people bond, people often adjust their lives to accommodate the animals' needs, so his emphasis is on looking for indications of bonding. Arms, like most people who arrange pet adoptions, tries to avoid mismatches, such as pairing a high-energy young dog with a person of limited mobility who lives in a high-rise apartment. But Arms does not say that the person cannot have the dog. Instead, he asks what the exercise plan for the dog is. Hiring a dog-walker can often make that scenario work. Other solutions may be found for most other common issues that lead to adoption failure.

Many people besides Arms can be credited with major contributions toward improving shelter animal rehoming. Warren Cox, most recently interim director of the Lakeland SPCA, more than 50 years ago was the first person to promote shelter adoptions on television. Also more than 50 years ago, the late Mel Morse—who cofounded the Helen Woodward Animal Center—was first to use a computer to help process adoptions. Alex and Elisabeth Lewyt, who took over the financially failing North Shore Animal League in 1969, were the first to use paid advertising to place shelter animals. Richard Avanzino, then executive director of the San Francisco SPCA, was first to recognize the importance to adopters of being able to choose an animal in a no-kill environment, where selecting one animal did not leave the adopter feeling guilty for leaving others to die.

Over the years, however, no one has been right about more aspects of adoption promotion than Arms—which led **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Clifton to discover one point that Arms may now be wrong about. Attempting to quantify the likelihood of would-be adopters going to breeders and pet stores to buy animals after being rejected by adoption screening, Clifton collected a geographically representative selection of 200 recent web postings from people who complained about screening procedures. Barely 10% mentioned going to a breeder or pet store instead. The other 90% merely turned to other shelters and rescues. Rather than complaining about shelter screening in general, their complaints focused on the particularly invasive and intrusive approaches of specific shelters or rescues, in contrast to others nearby.

Arms will probably consider this a positive finding, because it means that enough shelters and rescues are now paying attention to his teachings to reclaim most of the would-be adoption traffic that used to be driven to breeders and pet stores. An Associated Press/Petside.com survey released on May 12, 2010 affirmed this, showing that 30% of the pets now in homes came from shelters, compared to 26% from breeders, and that 54% of pet-keepers would prefer to acquire their next pets from shelters.

At the same time, Arms is certain to point out that some adoptive homes are still needlessly lost to breeders and pet stores, and these too can be reclaimed by rethinking screening to better accomplish what shelter animals need.

LETTERS

Rehoming

I read with interest Doug Fakkema's January/February 2010 letter headlined "Priorities," in which he wrote, "Let's not be seduced by gurus telling us the problem is our adoption policy. Our primary problem is too many animals, and the solution is spaying and neutering."

What's missing is talking with people who want to surrender animals and helping them to present unwanted animals to friends and family for adoption, as well as to strangers and to small rescue organization. This is a missing link in animal welfare *vis a vis* pet overpopulation, I think. Such help is usually not available to those who don't want to surrender animals to municipal shelters. Just preparing a flyer can make a life or death difference for some animals. It's too facile to say we can neuter our way out of the problem, any more than we can adopt our way out.

—Joanna Harkin

Washington, D.C.

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Editor's note:

Helping people to rehome their own animals is very successful for shelters that take the time to do it. However, surrendered pets are less than a third of total U.S. shelter intake, and except for dogs who have injured someone, these are the animals who tend to have the best chance of adoption. The animals who are most likely to be killed are unsocialized feral cats and dogs who are either impounded or surrendered for dangerous behavior.

The U.S. rate of shelter killing per 1,000 humans has fallen 88% in the past 40 years. About 7% of the drop may be attributed to improvements in rehoming animals. The other 93% reflects a rise in the rate of sterilizing pet dogs from under 10% to more than 70%, and a rise in the rate of sterilizing pet cats from under 5% to more than 80%.

The U.S. now kills about 13.5 dogs and cats per 1,000 Americans. Rehoming every animal who might potentially be rehomed could save about 40%.

We invite readers to submit letters and original unpublished commentary — please, nothing already posted to a web site—via e-mail to <anmlpepl@whidbey.com> or via postal mail to: **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, P.O. Box 960, Clinton, WA 98236 USA.

Financial data

I wish to thank you for your very informative newspaper. You do a wonderful job of informing us of many things we would never be aware of.

However, your explanation on page four of your September 2009 edition about why you no longer publish your annual financial tables just does not ring true to me. So much money is going to people instead of animals—a very sad situation, with shelters being closed, etc.

The salaries shown in your tables were staggering. I fully realize that it takes money to operate a shelter, but salaries should not take precedence in my opinion.

—Norma Gurinskas

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Editor's note:

*We still publish the financial data that appeared in the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** newspaper each December for 14 years through 2006, but the December tables became redundant when we started publishing the annual Watchdog Report on Animal Charities in 1999, which includes far more information about each of the 165 listed organizations than ever was included in the December tables, including details of programs and policies. After rising newsprint and postal costs in 2007-2008 obliged us to reduce our page count and frequency of publication, we dropped the tables from the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** newspaper to keep more space for news and reader response.*

The 2010 edition of the Watchdog Report on Animal Charities is scheduled for midsummer publication, and may be pre-ordered for \$25 per copy.



Please Help Me Heal

My name is Pounce.

My name is Pounce, and I'm the newest (and littlest) member of the Animal League's life-saving Help Me Heal Program! Even though I'm only 8 weeks old and weigh only one and a half pounds, I'm going to need a lot of help.

As you may have noticed, I am having some trouble with my left eye. Before coming to the Animal League, I suffered from a very bad respiratory infection. The trauma from the infection was so severe that it ruptured the globes in my left eye and caused deep corneal scarring.

I'm going to need to have my infected eye removed. But because I'm still so tiny, I have to wait before I can have surgery. I have to be at least two pounds. So the Animal League is going to keep me safe and happy until I gain some weight. The doctors said they expect me to have a full recovery and an excellent quality of life. When I'm all healed, the Animal League is going to find me a wonderful home.

Thank you for caring about a tiny kitten who is lost and helpless in this big world. Without your love and compassion, I probably would have no future and no chance at happiness.



To help continue the care for Pounce and help other animals in our Help Me Heal Program, visit www.AnimalLeague.org/help-me-heal

North Shore Animal League America's
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Non-surgical fix

Thanks for “The search goes on for a single-dose non-surgical way to sterilize dogs & cats.” You did a great job in getting a number of sources and separating fact from fiction.

Thanks for reaching out to the Alliance for Contraception of Cats & Dogs on this, as we strive to be a credible source of information for the public on the subject of non-surgical sterilization and contraception.

—Linda Rhodes, VMD, PhD.

Vice President for Clinical Development
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304 Amboy Avenue
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Healing war wounds

Thanks to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for developing and publishing “How to introduce neuter/return & make it work.” There have been bits and pieces of discussion of the issues floating around, and articles about the mechanical end of doing neuter/return, but not much addressing all the real world collection of issues and obstacles.

The Tsunami Animal People Alliance team recently made our first venture into what had been the Sri Lankan conflict zone, where it overlapped the tsunami zone in the town of Batticaloa. Soon we received this unsolicited e-mail from a staff member of a charity in Batticaloa that specialises in promoting inter-ethnic peace and reconciliation:

“TAPA is really a great, dynamic team and what I see is so much more than the work they are doing for dogs. Here in Batticaloa, after 30 years of war, devastation, death and destruction, TAPA represents a whole new concept of nurturing and concern for others that some of the communities have never experienced. Having Sinhala staff at TAPA doing free work for Tamil communities sends a powerful message.”

—Robert Blumberg

Friends of the Tsunami
Animal-People Alliance
34 Maximo Court
Danville, CA 94506
<rblumberg@attglobal.net>



Success in Romania

Thanks for your editorial “How to introduce neuter/return & make it work,” all of which is born out by our experience in Oradea, Romania, and the surrounding province of Bihor, where we have reduced the number of inadequately supervised dogs to about 10% of the starting level in 2004.

We are carrying out door to door canvassing and concentrating on dogs who have caretakers. As you say, these are the most reproductively successful.

We have found that it is necessary to defuse municipal complaints by temporarily or sometimes permanently removing the sterilized dogs whose behavior triggers those complaints, because without municipal cooperation we can achieve nothing. I learned in our previous project in Campina that sticking rigidly to the doctrine of neuter/return, against the wishes of the municipality, gets us nowhere.

You did not mention the threat of dog-dumping from surrounding areas. It is amazing how many new dogs, usually fertile, are dumped in Oradea by “dog rescuers” and selfish nearby municipalities. We constantly have to collect these dogs and try to rehome them. We are rehoming about 50 locally per month, in addition to a few rehomed abroad.

The most humane way of sheltering large numbers of shy non-rehomable but harmless dogs is an open shelter, such as the one I have near Oradea on 65 hectares of land, part forest, part open fields. Three or four day staff look after about 400 dogs separated into two groups—though in fact the dogs are free, so most could mix if they wanted to. The two groups are about 500 metres apart. We have been surprised how happy and approachable formerly shy dogs become. I am convinced this is the solution to the age old problem of what to do with excess, non-rehomable dogs.

At some point it would be useful for you to come to Oradea to see the results of our work. As you probably know, the North Shore Animal League America, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, and Dogs Trust are no longer sponsoring us, and I am financing the Oradea and Bihor projects myself.

—Robert Smith

SOS Dogs Oradea
Oradea, Romania

<robert.smith@thetangogroup.com>

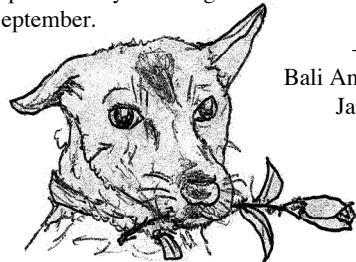


BAWA battles rabies outbreak

Thanks for your great April 2010 editorial feature “How to introduce neuter/ return & make it work.” I wish we could get back to spay/neuter work—hopefully soon! We are still sterilizing animals in our clinic but not in the field, due to the necessity of focusing on rabies vaccination. The good news is we should be finished in Gianyar by the end of May. We recently vaccinated 870 dogs in one day! We average 400-500.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals offered the government an island wide vaccination program that was turned down, but they agreed to let us vaccinate in Bangli, the next region over to the east. We will start in early June. Hopefully it will go smoothly, as Gianyar has, but there is already a lot of rabies up there.

I just flew someone to Jakarta who will bring back possibly the last six vials of rabies immunoglobulin in Indonesia. We rushed a boy for emergency treatment last night. He suffered a deep bite from a rabies-positive dog, and he got the last two vials on Bali—which I paid for because no one else would. We had one dog bite seven people and five dogs in one village, and then another three positive dogs bit a bunch more people. I hope the vaccines are good, because the sales rep said they won't get more rabies immunoglobulin until September.



—Janice Girardi, founder
Bali Animal Welfare Association
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Editor's note:

Bali authorities recognized 37 human rabies deaths at dead - line for the May 2010 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Bali media had reported the names and details of the deaths of 49 probable victims. There were reportedly 29 victims whose names and details of death were not published. About 60 people per day seek post-exposure vaccination after suffering bites from suspected rabid dogs. Perpetual shortages of rabies immunoglobulin mean that many bite victims do

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not receive the recommended course of treatment.

Culling at a rate about equal to normal street dog mortality, and at less than the street dog birth rate, the Bali government as of March 25, 2010 had killed 68,868 dogs, from a population officially estimated at 447,966. Vaccination drives, including those of BAWA, had reached 239,654 dogs.

The Bali rabies outbreak began with the mid-2008 import of a rabid dog from Flores, another Indonesian island province. The Flores authorities have failed to quell a rabies outbreak that started in 1997 despite 13 years of determined culling. Intensively vaccinating dogs has been effective in the parts of Flores where it has been done, as documented in The Rabies Epidemic on Flores Island, Indonesia, 2001-2003, by Caecelia Windyaningsih, Henry Wilde, Francois Meslin, and several co-authors.

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U.S. Supreme Court strikes down law banning cruelty videos (from page 1)

for Freedom of the Press cited 27 examples involving collaborations among news media and animal advocates which it contended would have been criminalized if 18 USC § 48 had been enforced to the letter.

Hunting videos

Secondarily, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press cited the possibility that 18 USC § 48 might prohibit the use of video to expose illegal or ethically questionable hunting, fishing, and trapping.

The possible application of 18 USC § 48 to hunting videos was the focal concern of *amicus curiae* briefs submitted by the National Rifle Association and Safari Club International. The NRA and Safari Club argued that 18 USC § 48 “would have imposed felony penalties for creating, possessing or selling mainstream hunting images,” summarized NRA Institute for Legislative Action executive director Chris W. Cox.

Said an NRA press release acclaiming the Stevens verdict, “Before becoming president of HSUS, Wayne Pacelle said, ‘The definition of obscenity on the newsstands should be extended to many hunting magazines.’ This is precisely what the law did.”

Both the Supreme Court verdict and a dissenting opinion by Justice Samuel Alito appeared to find most relevant to the Stevens case the examples of potential applications of 18 USC § 48 to hunting.

Held the verdict, “Limiting §48’s reach to crush videos and depictions of animal fighting or other extreme cruelty...requires an unrealistically broad reading of the statute’s exceptions clause. The statute only exempts material with ‘serious’ value, and ‘serious’ must be taken seriously. The excepted speech must also fall within one of §48(b)’s enumerated categories. Much speech does not. For example, most hunting depictions are not obviously instructional in nature. The exceptions clause simply has no adequate reading that results in the statute’s banning only the depictions the Government would like to ban.”

Ferber not precedent

Reminded the Supreme Court, “The First Amendment provides that ‘Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech.’ As a general matter, the First Amendment means that government has no power to restrict expression because of message, ideas, subject matter, or content.”

Ferber, the Supreme Court ex-

plained, “presented a special case: The market for child pornography was ‘intrinsically related’ to the underlying abuse, and was therefore ‘an integral part of the production of such materials, an activity illegal throughout the Nation.’”

The Ferber Court noted that the value of child pornography “is exceedingly modest, if not *de minimis*,” and that since the nature of child pornography and the harm to children involved in producing it are already well understood, there is no need for examples of child pornography to be published by news media or other participants in public debate.

The Ferber argument fails as applied to depictions of cruelty to animals, the Supreme Court reasoned, in part because there is ongoing societal debate about what acts constitute cruelty to animals. Visual documentation of various controversial acts, both illegal and still legal, is involved in much of the discussion as to what should be prohibited.

18 USC §48, said the Supreme Court, “addresses only portrayals of harmful acts, not the underlying conduct. It applies to any visual or auditory depiction ‘in which a living animal is intentionally maimed, mutilated, tortured, wounded, or killed,’ if that conduct violates federal or state law where ‘the creation, sale, or possession takes place.’ Another clause exempts depictions with ‘serious religious, political, scientific, educational, journalistic, historical, or artistic value,’” but that very exemption, meant to preserve the constitutionality of the statute, instead ran afoul of previous Supreme Court verdicts.

“Since its enactment,” the Supreme Court recounted, “the First Amendment has permitted restrictions on a few historic categories of speech—including obscenity, defamation, fraud, incitement, and speech integral to criminal conduct.” However, “While the prohibition of animal cruelty has a long history in American law,” the Supreme Court found, citing examples dating to 1641, “there is no evidence of a similar tradition prohibiting depictions of such cruelty.”

Even if such a tradition existed, the Supreme Court objected that “The statute’s definition of a ‘depiction of animal cruelty’ does not even require that the depicted conduct be cruel. While the words ‘maimed, mutilated, [and] tortured’ convey cruelty, ‘wounded’ and ‘killed’ do not...Section 48 does require that the depicted conduct be ‘illegal,’ but many federal and state laws concerning the proper treatment of animals are not designed to guard

against animal cruelty. For example,” the Supreme Court said, “endangered species protections restrict even the humane wounding or killing of animals. The statute draws no distinction based on the reason the conduct is made illegal...and includes, for example, the humane slaughter of a stolen cow.”

The Supreme Court was further troubled that 18 USC §48 “extends to conduct that is illegal in only a single jurisdiction,” so that “A depiction of entirely lawful conduct runs afoul of the ban if that depiction later finds its way into another state where the same conduct is unlawful. This provision greatly expands the scope of §48,” the Supreme Court majority held, “because although there may be ‘a broad societal consensus’ against cruelty to animals, there is substantial disagreement on what types of conduct are properly regarded as cruel. Both views about cruelty to animals and regulations having no connection to cruelty vary widely from place to place.”

Alito’s dissent

Justice Samuel Alito in the lone dissenting opinion wrote that his fellow Justices had reviewed the wrong issue. “Instead of applying the doctrine of overbreadth,” Alito wrote, “I would vacate the [Stevens] decision and instruct the Court of Appeals on remand to decide whether the videos that respondent sold are constitutionally protected.

“I would hold that §48 does not apply to depictions of hunting,” Alito continued. “First, because §48 targets depictions of ‘animal cruelty,’ I would interpret that term to apply only to depictions involving acts of animal cruelty as defined by applicable state or federal law, not to depictions of acts that happen to be illegal for reasons having nothing to do with the prevention of animal cruelty.

Alito argued that the reasoning of the Ferber verdict should apply in Stevens too, since the crush videos share the characteristics of child pornography cited by the Supreme Court in the Ferber ruling. “The conduct depicted in crush videos is criminal in every State and the District of Columbia,” Alito noted. “Thus, any crush video made in this country records the actual commission of a criminal act that inflicts severe physical injury and excruciating pain and ultimately results in death. Those who record the underlying criminal acts are likely to be criminally culpable, either as aiders and abettors or conspirators. And in the tight and secretive market for these videos, some who sell the videos or possess

them with the intent to make a profit may be similarly culpable.

“The criminal acts shown in crush videos cannot be prevented without targeting the conduct prohibited by §48—the creation, sale, and possession for sale of depictions of animal torture with the intention of realizing a commercial profit,” Alito contended.

“The evidence presented to Congress posed a stark choice: Either ban the commercial exploitation of crush videos or tolerate a continuation of the criminal acts that they record,” Alito wrote. “Faced with this evidence, Congress reasonably chose to target the lucrative crush video market.”

Alito argued further that 18 USC §48 should apply to dogfighting as well as crush videos. Repeatedly citing the HSUS *amicus curiae* brief, Alito wrote that “because videos depicting live dogfights are essential to the success of the criminal dogfighting subculture, the commercial sale of such videos helps to fuel the market for, and thus to perpetuate the perpetration of, the criminal conduct depicted in them.”

Among the consequences of the Stevens decision is that the Supreme Court in effect legalized one of the most profitable aspects of professional dogfighting, and made catching dogfighters in the act more difficult. As U.S. law now stands, participating in a dogfight is a federal felony and a felony in 49 of the 50 states. Attending a dogfight is an offense in 48 states. However, the Stevens verdict means that dogfights conducted outside the U.S. might be telecast into the U.S. with impunity. U.S.-based dogfighters, instead of charging admission and collecting bets, at risk that a spectator or bettor may be an undercover investigator, might exclude everyone but themselves from a dogfight and just distribute videos of the proceedings.

Source material

The major concern of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the commttee brief explained, was the portion of 18 USC § 48 providing that anyone who knowingly possesses “a depiction of animal cruelty with the intention of placing that depiction in interstate or foreign commerce for commercial gain” faced up to five years in prison, unless the depiction itself had ‘serious’ value.

Explained the Reporters Committee, “Reporters are in the business of intentionally placing such depictions ‘in interstate or foreign

(continued on page 7)

Massachusetts bans devocalizing dogs

BOSTON—Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick on April 24, 2010 signed into law An Act Prohibiting Devocalization, only the second state law to ban debarking dogs, the first to cover almost all dogs, and the first anti-devocalization law covering most dogs to advance with a strong chance of passage since 2000.

“New Jersey has a law banning devocalization, but there are a number of broad exceptions that make it generally unenforceable,” explained Animal Law Coalition attorney Laura Allen, who drafted the Massachusetts law. “The only exception in the Massachusetts law,” Allen said, “is for medical necessity as determined by a licensed veterinarian for disease, injury or a congenital condition that is causing or could cause the animal harm or pain and suffering.”

The United Kingdom banned devocalization in 1993, along with ear cropping, tail docking, and de-clawing cats.

Groups representing police and firefighters joined with humane organizations in 2000 to push anti-debarking legislation in California, New Jersey, and Ohio. Police and firefighters became involved after several discoveries of devocalized pit bull terriers guarding facilities used for the production and distribution of illegal drugs. Because the dogs could not bark, law enforcement agents only discovered their presence when the dogs attacked.

The California bill introduced in 2000 died due to the concerted opposition of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Animal Hospital Association and the American SPCA. The New Jersey and Ohio bills were weakened by amendment.

New Jersey now bans devocalization surgery except for medical or therapeutic reasons, defined more broadly than in Massachusetts. Ohio prohibits devocalizing only dogs who have killed or disfigured humans or other animals, are pit bull terriers, or have otherwise been designated dangerous.

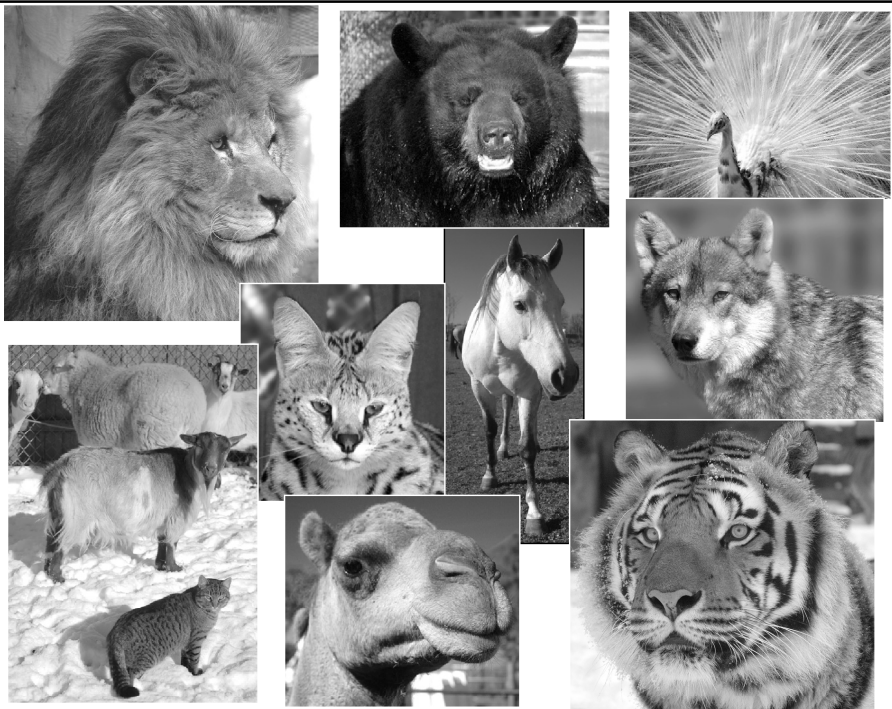
The Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association led the opposition to the

Massachusetts Act Prohibiting Devocalization, but the ASPCA and the Massachusetts SPCA endorsed the bill. Veterinary societies mostly still oppose laws against devocalization, but support for the procedure has weakened. Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine executive director John King, for instance, in 2006 told *Minneapolis Star Tribune* intern Jenna Ross that there is no good reason for devocalization.

The Massachusetts anti-devocalization bill was introduced into the legislature in December 2008, as result of petitioning by then-Needham High School freshman Jordan Star. Efforts were made to promote it as “Logan’s Law,” named after a devocalized Belgian sheepdog who was adopted from Texas by Friends of the Plymouth Pound founder Gayle Fitzpatrick and her husband Tom.

However, “Logan’s Law” has been prominently used to describe at least three other items of legislation. Still before Congress is a “Logan’s Law” proposed by U.S. Representative Raymond Green (D-Texas), which would require the addition of child safety features to culverts. Introduced several times in West Virginia is a “Logan’s Law” which would strengthen legislation against sexual predators who prey upon children.

The original “Logan’s Law,” or “Logan Act,” was passed by Congress in 1799 in opposition to diplomatic initiatives undertaken by physician George Logan, who had intervened to help prevent war between the U.S. and France in 1798. The law prevents U.S. citizens from conducting unauthorized foreign relations. Still on the books, updated in 1994, it has never been used to prosecute anyone. Logan himself was later elected to the U.S. Senate, but was unable to get “Logan’s Law” repealed.



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EU General Affairs Council approves new draft rules on animal experiments

BRUSSELS—The European Union General Affairs Council on May 11, 2010 approved a new draft directive on animal experiments. The present directive has been in effect since 1986. The new directive is expected to be approved by the full European Parliament in September 2010.

“Under the new provisions member states will be required to ensure that experiments with animals are replaced, wherever possible, by an alternative method; the number of animals used in projects is reduced to a minimum without compromising the quality of results; [and] the degree of pain and suffering caused to animals is limited to the minimum,”

the council said in a prepared statement.

“Experiments with great apes will be prohibited,” the statement added. Exceptions may be made for research “essential for the survival of the species itself or because of an unexpected outbreak of a life-threatening or debilitating disease in humans. Non-human primates [of any species] may only be used if they are the offspring of animals bred in captivity, or if they are sourced from self-sustaining colonies.” The latter provisions bring the EU directive into conformity with the requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

“Member states will also have to

ensure that all breeders, suppliers and users are authorized and registered with the competent authority,” the EU statement continued. “The new directive,” the EU statement stipulated, “will cover vertebrate animals, including larval and foetal forms of mammals from the last third of their normal development, and cephalopods (for instance squid).”

The European Coalition to End Animal Experiments objected that the 1986 directive already requires that animal experiments must be replaced wherever possible and that animal use must be kept to a minimum, so that claiming this provision as an improvement is misleading.

“Worse,” said the coalition, “the new law would allow animals to be used even where there is an adequate replacement,” if the replacement is not listed in European legislation. “Based on the latest EU statistics,” the coalition said, “this would account for around 78% of all experiments, such as those conducted for basic research.”

The European Coalition to End Animal Experiments questioned whether any of the goals of the draft directive were achieved, in view of the many exemptions included due to lobbying by the biomedical research and pharmaceutical industries.

“Eurogroup for Animals,” representing animal welfare organizations in all EU member states, “welcomes the Council’s decision,” Eurogroup said in a written statement, “but remains concerned that the new EU law does not go far enough in promoting the use of non-animal alternatives.”

Eurogroup director Sonja Van Tichelen called the draft agreement a “positive step forward, but still not the U-turn needed to adequately protect animals used in research. It is disappointing that issues including a proper system of authorisation of animal use and of ethical review, and minimal standards for animal accommodation and care, proved so controversial,” Van Tichelen said.

“Previous drafts of the directive seemed set to severely hamper European biomedical research,” wrote Allison Abbott for *Nature*, after the draft that was approved on May 11 was released for comment on April 7, 2010. “The final directive,” Abbot assessed, “has largely diffused scientists’ concerns.”

Extended Canadian seal hunt kills fewest seals since 1993

ST. JOHNS, Newfoundland—Canadian Fisheries Minister Gail Shea on May 11, 2010 announced that the close of the 2010 Atlantic Canada seal hunt would be extended to the end of May.

The sealing season was lengthened to give sealers an “extended period of time to take advantage of potential market opportunities,” said the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in a prepared statement. Earlier, Shea increased the sealing quota to 330,000, from 280,000 in 2009, even though the European Union in July 2009 banned imports of seal products.

The DFO and Newfoundland media disagreed about how many seals had been killed as of the extension—the DFO said 57,000, while *The Beacon*, of Gander, said 48,000, and the *Western Star*, of Corner Brook, said 60,000. Any of the figures were the lowest since a 10-year suspension of the offshore phase of the hunt ended in 1994.

“The Minister has unwittingly shortened the seal slaughter by two weeks. Under the Marine Mammal Regulations the closing date of the commercial harp seal hunt is, in fact, June 15,” responded International Fund for Animal Welfare representative Sheryl Fink, of Guelph, Ontario, in a letter to the *National Post*. “When the DFO manages to screw up something as simple as reading their own legisla-

tion,” Fink continued, “one wonders what hope there is for fish who rely on them for conservation.”

“Most of Canada’s 6,000 sealers stayed home, unable to find buyers for their catch or stymied by a lack of ice floes for the first time in 60 years on the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, which usually host hordes of seals birthing pups,” reported Michel Comte of Agence France-Presse. “Fewer than 50 sealing ships launched from Newfoundland, down from 500 in past years.” The only ship from the Magdalen Islands hunting seals in 2010 was the *Jean-Mathieu*, which brought back 2,200 seal carcasses from the Labrador Front—half as many, Comte said, as the crew hoped to kill.

An Ipsos Reid poll of 181 Newfoundland sealers and vessel owners, commissioned by Humane Society International/Canada, found recently that 49% believe the market for seal pelts is likely to continue to decline. Eighty-three percent believe the fishing industry is also in decline and unlikely to recover. Half of the sealers said they would favor a governmental buyout which, as outlined by the pollsters, would “involve fishers and vessel owners being compensated for their sealing licences, and money being invested in economic alternatives for affected communities.”

U.S. Supreme Court strikes down law banning cruelty videos (from page 6)

commerce for commercial gain.’ And even the creation of indisputably ‘serious’ journalism often will require the possession of source materials that are not exempt as ‘serious’ works. For example, an investigation of animal fighting, or inhumane slaughtering.

“The same could be said,” the Reporters Committee brief continued, “of animal rights groups that possess graphic source material for use in their work. The Humane Society of the U.S. and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals operate YouTube channels that feature explicit images of animal cruelty, often in combination with fund-raising appeals. Anti-dog-fighting campaigns even used portions of Stevens’ videos in their work. If fundraising were construed as use for ‘commercial gain,’” as other court cases have at times held that it is, even when funds raised are used for charitable purposes, “their possession of source materials could constitute a felony. Such possession and use for the purposes of exposing acts of animal cruelty should be *encouraged*, not criminalized.”

History of the law

Authored by Elton Gallegly (R-California), 18 USC § 48 was introduced and passed with unusual speed for a pro-animal bill, receiving the support of many pro-hunting members of Congress, and of President Bill Clinton, who at the time was opening National Parks to hunting at an unprecedented pace, preliminary to then-Vice President Albert Gore running to succeed Clinton.

The crush video traffic prompting the Gallegly bill came to light when British Customs in mid-1997 intercepted several videos mailed by one “Jeff Vilencia” of “Squish Productions” in California. British Customs took the videos to Martin Daly of the Royal SPCA. Daly eventually enlisted investigative help from Cassandra Brown of the London *Sunday Telegraph*.

Unaware of that case, then-America Online “Animals & Society” host Susan Roghair independently discovered several web sites which promoted and sold crush videos. Roghair in October 1997 sought help in doing something about the business from **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, PETA, AnimalTalk host Dick Weevil, and Ohio animal rights attorney Shawn Thomas, who turned out to be pursuing a parallel investigation of his own, after finding some of the same web sites.

Att Thomas’ request, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in October 1997 postponed publishing an article about crush videos to avoid jeopardizing the investigation. Cassandra Brown in November 1997 scooped **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Learning thereby of the British investigation, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** introduced the British and American investigators.

Unknown to any other investigators, the Suffolk County SPCA was separately closing in on crush video producer Thomas Capriola, 30, of Islip Terrace, Long Island. Two days after Capriola was arrested in May 1998, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** introduced the Suffolk County SPCA investigators to Daly,

Thomas, and Roghair.

18 USC § 48 was not used in winning any of the ensuing convictions.

Capriola in December 2000 pleaded guilty to misdemeanor cruelty to animals and fifth-degree possession of marijuana, and was sentenced to serve 280 hours of community service with three years on probation.

The original investigation brought the August 1999 arrests and eventual plea bargain convictions of “crush video” star Diane Aileen Chaffin, 35, of La Puente, California, and producer Gary Lynn Thomason, 48, of Anaheim. Each drew a year in jail and three years on probation.

Convicted in Britain were Craig Chapman, 27, Christine Besford, 26, Sarah Goode, 22, and Tharaza Smallwood, 22. Chapman was in May 2002 sentenced to serve two years in jail. The three women drew four months each. All four defendants were also fined and banned for life from keeping pets.

Yet another crush video case surfaced in China in March 2006. China has only within the past year published several variants of a draft anti-cruelty law. Thus making and


distributing the crush video that was posted to the web in China was not illegal. However, individual Chinese citizens rapidly identified the “actress” who stomped a kitten to death as hospital nurse Wang Yue, of northern Heilongjiang province, and posted her personal data, along with that of the videographer.

Wang Yue lost her job. The producer, identified as Luobei Television cameraman Li Yuejun, wrote a published apology and self-criticism. The state-run *China Daily* editorially argued for the national cruelty law that has finally begun to advance.

The Stevens case, leading to the U.S. Supreme Court verdict, originated when Stevens advertised his videos in the *Sporting Dog Journal*. *Sporting Dog Journal* publisher James Frichione was convicted in March 2004 of six felonies and five misdemeanors for allegedly promoting dogfights.

Only days after the Supreme Court struck down Stevens’ conviction and 18 USC § 48, Representative Gallegly and more than 50 cosponsors introduced HR 5092, seeking to restore the intent of 18 USC § 48 in terms that will be constitutional. —Merritt Clifton

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Gassing in animal shelters nears abolition, but continues on farms & in fields

Momentum toward abolition of gassing shelter animals was evident in seven of the last states where gassing continues as the May 2010 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, but a faxed publicity release received near deadline made clear that abolishing carbon monoxide chambers will be just the start of abolishing gassing altogether.

The publicity release touted kits for connecting the exhaust pipes of cars, trucks, and lawn mowers to hoses, in order to gas burrowing animals with unfiltered hot fumes.

The American Veterinary Medical Association still accepts use of gassing to kill small animals, including dogs, cats, and captive wildlife, but not gassing with exhaust fumes. “Fumes from idling gasoline internal combustion engines...are associated with problems such as production of other gases, achieving inadequate concentrations of carbon monoxide, [and] inadequate cooling of the gas,” summarizes the AVMA publication Guidelines on Euthanasia. “Therefore, the only acceptable source is compressed carbon monoxide in cylinders.”

Sixteen states have banned gassing shelter animals, including Illinois, New Mexico, New York, and West Virginia in 2009. The legislatures of five states—Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Utah—considered bills to prohibit gassing during their spring 2010 sessions.

Georgia banned installing new gas chambers in 1990, but allowed existing gas chambers to remain in use. The Georgia bill, sent to Governor Sonny Perdue on April 29, 2010, would require the 11 agencies that still gas animals to stop by January 1, 2013.

The Louisiana bill was approved by the Louisiana Senate 35-0 on April 27, 2010, and was referred to the state House of Representatives.

The Louisiana bill began moving after Humane Society of Louisiana founder Jeff Dorson toured the Terrebonne Parish animal shelter on March 12, 2010, “in response to three written complaints alleging that the gas chamber malfunctioned on occasion, employees did not properly use it, and condemned animals suffer as a result,” reported *Houma Courier* senior staff writer John DeSantis.

The Louisiana bill would ban the

“heart stick” method of injection killing, as well as gassing, “unless the animal is unconscious or rendered completely unconscious and insensitive to pain “ by pre-sedation.

The Michigan bill to ban gassing went to a legislative hearing in May 2010.

The Pennsylvania anti-gassing bill cleared the state senate agricultural and rural affairs committee, but with an amendment to exclude “activity undertaken in a normal agricultural operation.” The exemption would allow continued use of exhaust fumes to kill animals such as woodchucks. Mounting airtight tents over poultry barns and then killing the birds inside with gas is also standard procedure in response to outbreaks of contagious illnesses such as exotic Newcastle, a fungal infection, and avian influenzas.

The Utah anti-gassing bill was disabled by amendment after North Utah Valley Animal Shelter director Tug Gettling testified to the Utah House government operations committee that, as Tony Semerad of the *Salt Lake Tribune* paraphrased, “Gas chambers give shelter workers some distance from the animal’s death, while also providing a safer option for putting down wild or aggressive animals.”

Bain Cate, public health director for Victoria, Texas, and Victoria shelter assistant manager Heather Kern made similar arguments in April 2010 to Gabe Semenza of the *Victoria Advocate*, in response to protest against gassing led by Austin nurse Sheila Smith. “Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Houston and many other Texas cities [have already] banned the method,” Semenza mentioned.

In Ohio, Licking County animal control director Jon Luzio in early 2010 resisted pressure to replace gassing with lethal injection, also in the belief that gassing is easier for staff, but in mid-March agreed to phase out gassing. About 70% of the animal shelters in Ohio had reportedly already switched from gassing to sodium pentobarbital injection.

In Idaho only the animal control shelters in Chubbock and Pocatello still gas animals, Idaho Humane Society director Jeff Rosenthal told Katy Moeller of the *Idaho Statesman* in April 2010. “The Idaho Falls Animal Shelter recently dismantled the gas chamber that it had used for years,” wrote

Moeller. “The machine broke down and couldn’t be repaired, said Irene Brown, manager of the shelter. The shelter couldn’t afford \$30,000 for a new one, so now all euthanasia at the shelter is done by lethal injection.”

Moving opposite to public opinion and the national trend, Illinois Republican candidate for governor Bill Brady in late February 2009 briefly sponsored a failed bill to require animal shelters to cut costs by gassing multiple animals at a time.

The argument that gassing is easier on staff is often disputed by shelter personnel, including Pocatello Animal Shelter manager Mary Remer. “To watch a dog go to sleep in your arms, I don’t see how that can be inhumane,” Remer told Moeller. “Putting them in the chamber and walking away—it does feel cruel, and we don’t like to use it.”

Other common arguments for gas chambers are that the security requirements for possession of sodium pentobarbital are difficult for shelters to meet, and that staff without extensive training in the use of sodium pentobarbital often will resort to the heart stick.

The security issue in February 2010 brought an investigation by the Missouri Department of Agriculture of procedures at the Jefferson County Animal Control Center, after Jefferson County animal control director acknowledged that shelter veterinarian Sherry Torregrossa is rarely present when animals are killed—which is common throughout the U.S. at shelters that employ trained euthanasia technicians. Torregrossa said she had visited the shelter only once in three years. Most of her work for the county, explained Christine Byers of the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, is sterilizing animals who are offered for adoption.

By federal law, however, the possession and use of sodium pentobarbital must be under veterinary supervision.

The case arose out of a dispute over the shelter’s decision to euthanize an owner-surrendered Sharpei mix for dangerous behavior, after the dog had been claimed by a local rescuer who planned to return him to his previous home. The dog was surrendered after he escaped from the home and attacked another dog. The dog’s family were advised that to keep him, they would have to “pay for 10 citations, build a concrete-based enclosure for

dangerous dogs, and retain \$100,000 liability insurance,” wrote Byers.

A 10-year dispute over heart-sticking at the Robeson County Animal Shelter in North Carolina ended on April 20, 2010 when county health director Bill Smith told a news conference that shelter staff would switch to the AVMA-recommended intravenous injection method. “There was talk of a new law at the state level, so we decided it would be better to go ahead and switch now,” Smith told *Fayetteville Observer* staff writer Mike Hixenbaugh.

Heart-sticking without pre-sedation is already illegal in South Carolina. Three Cherokee County Animal Shelter personnel with fined \$237 each for heart-sticking in April 2009. One of them, who resigned, had previously been fined \$200 for shooting a dog. “Testimony showed Cherokee County officials who operate the shelter did not receive a license to possess the drugs used to properly carry out the procedure until April 2009,” wrote Janet S. Spencer of the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*.

Shooting animals surfaced as an issue in early 2010 in Houston, Alaska; Canton, Mississippi; and Hinckley, Utah.

The Houston animal shelter was closed for the balance of the 2010 fiscal year, ending in July, after mayor Roger Purcell failed in an attempt to fire police officer and animal control supervisor Charlie Seidl.

Canton animal control officer Alonso Esco was fired in January 2010. A hearing to decide whether Esco should be charged with cruelty and illegal animal dumping is to be held on June 21, 2010. Esco was charged in April in an unrelated domestic violence case.

Hinckley mayor Christie Tolbert denied as categorically false a report posted by the Helen Woodward Animal Center in Rancho Santa Fe, California, and amplified by Fox 15 News of San Diego, that stray animals in Hinckley are shot, run over, and then thrown into sewage treatment ponds.

“Hinckley Town contracts with a local veterinarian for euthanasia services. Animals are held between five and seven days depending on the temperament of the animal,” Christie said. Afterward, Christie added, most dogs and cats are adopted.

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Tadpoles show sentence (from page 1)

cate underwater,” Walker wrote. “The discovery that frog tadpoles can make sounds raises the possibility that a host of aquatic larvae communicate in a similar way.”

The finding demonstrates sentence in vertebrates at an earlier stage than has ever before been scientifically established. The tadpole scream is usually not a response to a direct physical stimulus, Natale found. Most often it is anticipatory, meaning that the tadpole must recognize a threat and perceive an advantage in communicating, rather than just trying to escape, evade notice, or fight.

The discovery of the tadpole scream may challenge the idea, sometimes advanced as part of a “reduction, refinement, replacement” strategy, that animal experiments might be made less inhumane by using animals at earlier stages of development.

“We have definitely underestimated their abilities,” said Natale.

Natale was originally studying the mating calls of adult *Ceratophrys ornata*. Native to Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil, *Ceratophrys ornata* are sometimes sold in pet shops as the so-called Pacman frog.

Ceratophrys ornata “is now endangered as it gains popularity among pet owners,” according to University of Ottawa biologist Vance Trudeau.

Seeking a way to breed *Ceratophrys ornata* in captivity, Natale netted a *Ceratophrys ornata* tadpole and “heard a brief, clear, very audible metallic sound,” he told the BBC.

Successful captive breeding enabled Natale to study *Ceratophrys ornata* in his lab. Natale discovered that *Ceratophrys ornata* tadpoles are “naturally aggressive and carnivorous, often eating the tadpoles of other frog species,” Walker recounted.

Yet, “Much to our astonishment, they do not eat each other,” Natale said

“Producing distress calls is likely to help prevent the tadpoles from cannibalising each other,” summarized Walker. “They continue to emit distress calls underwater both as tadpoles and after they have begun metamorphosis, when they become froglets. The tadpoles also produce the sounds when removed from the water.”

Some insect larvae are known to communicate with sounds, but many insects spend most of their lives in a larval stage. Vertebrates by contrast tend to evolve rapidly out of the larval stage, undergoing most of their development later.

New threat to Kenya hunt ban

NAIROBI—A draft Wildlife Bill proposed to the Kenyan parliament but not yet raised for debate would split the Kenya Wildlife Service into three separate agencies—and ease the way for reintroducing sport hunting to Kenya, after a 33-year hiatus, charges African Network for Animal Welfare founder Joshat Ngunyo.

Kenyan wildlife policy formation would be done under the Ministry for Wildlife, rather than within KWS under ministerial authority. A new Kenya Wildlife Regulatory Authority would be created to supervise wildlife management on private land. The present Kenya Wildlife Service would contract to focus on managing the 61 Kenyan national parks and wildlife reserves, conducting law enforcement, and doing wildlife research.

The draft Wildlife Bill has received little media notice since March 30, 2010, when Kenya Wildlife Service director Julius Kpng’etich outlined the key provisions to *The Nation*, a leading Nairobi newspaper. Efforts to repeal the sport hunting ban in effect since 1977 have advanced by stealth before, backed by many of the same private landholders.

In December 2004 a bill to revoke the hunting ban slipped through the Kenyan

parliament through a late night pre-holiday recess voice vote. The bill was vetoed by Kenya president Mwai Kibaki after Ngunyo, then heading Youth for Conservation, mobilized last-minute opposition.

“The proposed Wildlife Regulatory Authority is another consumptive utilization vehicle,” Ngunyo told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “One of the ways it will raise funds for its operations is through issuing licenses for wildlife harvesting and sale of game trophies. Of course the more licenses they issue, the more the money they will make! This regulatory authority came through back door,” Ngunyo charged, “as it was not in the original document that the national steering committee agreed upon. This was a committee of members representing all stakeholders nationally, that I sat among,” Ngunyo added.

“Local communities coexisting with wildlife in Kenya and those of us in civil societies who speak for the animals and work with those communities are immensely unhappy about this,” Ngunyo continued. “Obviously our concerns have been ignored. We will be consulting all the concerned stakeholders and the communities involved to come up with a way forward.”

Events

May 23: Intl. World Turtle Day. Info: American Tortoise Rescue, <www.tortoise.com>; <info@tortoise.com>.

June 5: Soi Dogs: The Movie premier at Phuket Film Festival, Phuket, Thailand. Info: <alan@soidog.org>.

June 5: Stray Cat Strut 5-mile walk to benefit Tree House Humane Society, Chicago. Info: <773-784-5488, x238>; <www.TreeHouseAnimals.org>.

June 8: New Mexico Governor's Conference on The Link Between Animal Abuse & Human Violence, Albuquerque. Info: <www.e-solved.com/TheLink>.

June 12: Animal Acres Country Hoe Down, Acton, Calif. Info: <www.animal-acres.org>.

June 13: National Pigeon Day. Info: <www.nationalpigeonday.blogspot.com>.

June 17: Animal Exploitation: Washington State Bar Association seminar, Seattle. Info: <www.wsba-cle.org/seminars>.

July 4: Animal Acres Pignic, Acton, California. Info: <www.animalacres.org>.

July 1-4: Understanding why we bond with pets conference, Stockholm, Sweden. Info: <peter@manimlis.se>; <www.iahao2010.com>.

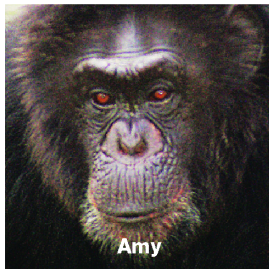
July 4: Kenya SPCA Howl & Holler fundraiser, Nairobi. Info: <info@kspca-kenya.org>.

July 15-18: Animal Rights 2010 Natl. Conf., Alexandria, Va. Info: 1-888-327-6872; <info@arconference.org>.

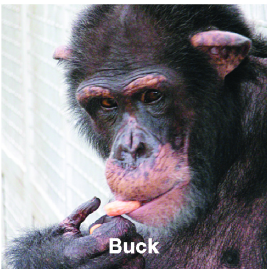
(continued on page 10)



IF YOU ARE HOLDING AN EVENT, please let us know—we’ll be happy to announce it, and to send free samples of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.



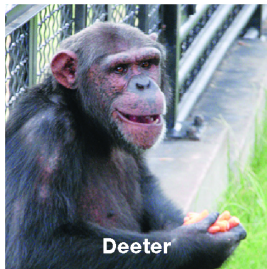
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Buck



Chobe



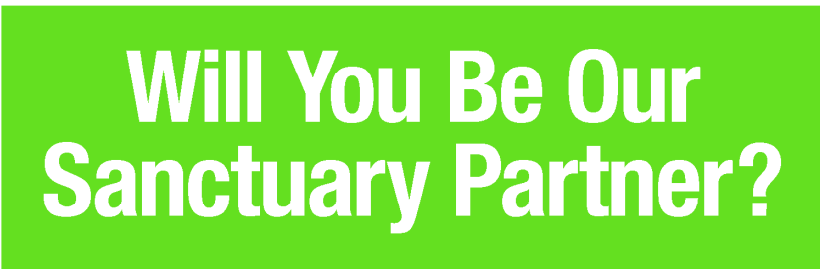
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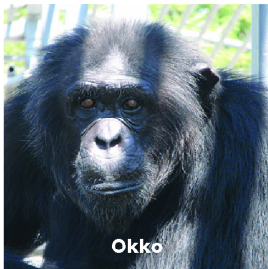
Hope



Jewel with Baby Grace



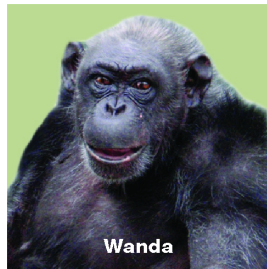
Mallory



Okko



Uriah



Wanda

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Is Zimbabwe loading animals two-by-two to send to North Korea?

HARARE—"We were recently informed that two of every species of animal in Hwange National Park are to be sent to a zoo in North Korea," charged Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force chair Johnny Rodrigues in a May 13, 2010 e-mail alert.

"According to the report," Rodrigues said, "the animals will include two 18-month-old elephant calves. It is believed that this is a gift from Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe, to Kim Jong-il, president of North Korea."

"Capture and spotting teams have been seen in the park," Rodrigues continued, "and there have been reports of armed men standing around key waterholes waiting for the animals to appear so they can radio the information back to the capture teams. There have also been reports of National Parks vehicles towing cages around."

AWBI chair Kharb makes an example of Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD—Animal Welfare Board of India chair Rammehar Kharb on April 20, 2010 warned the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation against "persisting with the completely outdated, barred practice of dumping, and even destroying dogs" by capturing them violently with iron tongs and abandoning them at desert dump sites.

"Not only are the Animal Birth Control rules being flagrantly violated," Kharb wrote, "but the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is also being violated. Your actions, and the actions of your employees, constitute an offence under the Penal Code."

Kharb released his warning to Ahmedabad media less than 60 days after asking the Ahmedabad

"A National Parks informant has confirmed," Rodrigues said, "that the animals are being kept in quarantine in bomas at Umtshibi in Hwange National Park, and will leave for Korea very soon. Elephant experts think there is little chance that the two young elephants will survive the trip."

Mugabe has courted Kim Jong-il with gifts of animals before. Recalled David Smith, Johannesburg correspondent for *The Guardian*, "Two rhinos, a male called Zimbo and a female called Zimba, given to Kim by Mugabe in the 1980s, died a few months after their relocation."

Vitalis Chadenga, director general for national parks, told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** freelance correspondent Barnabas Thondhlana that Mugabe was not involved. "I can tell you that the president or even the minister is not involved in this, there is nothing like a presi-

dential decree here at parks," Chadenga said. "But I can confirm that we received an application from the Democratic Republic of North Korea," Chadenga added, "and we are still processing the application."

"Of the animals requested, only the two elephants are endangered. The others, like giraffes, zebras, and warthogs, are not endangered according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species," Chadenga said. Chadenga said experts had been sent to North Korea to assess the new home for the animals and that a report on their findings was being compiled.

"The move is likely to stoke fires in Matabeleland and Midlands," assessed Thondhlana, "where the Gukurahundi massacres are still an emotive subject. North Korean instructors trained the Zimbabwean 5th Brigade, blamed for the murder of more than 20,000 civilians in Matabeleland and Midlands provinces between 1982 and 1987. Last month, activists from Matabeleland and Midlands protested against plans by government to bring the North Korean national soccer team to Zimbabwe for a training camp ahead of the World Cup in South Africa next month. The visit is now uncertain."

U.S. President Barack Obama described the Gukurahundi killings when on November 23, 2009 he presented the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award to Zimbabwean human rights activist Magodonga



Mahlangu and Women of Zimbabwe Arise co-founder Jenni Williams.

In Kenya, public opposition rallied by Youth for Conservation in 2005 halted a comparably politically motivated attempt by the Chiang Mai Night Safari Park in Thailand to buy elephants and more than 300 other animals from Kenya. The deal was reportedly brokered by acting Kenyan tourism minister Raphael Tuju, who accompanied then-Kenyan president Mwai Kibaki on a state visit to Thailand. Josaphat Nguny, founder of Youth for Conservation, later formed and now heads the African Network for Animal Welfare. The ANAW mission includes helping to empower animal advocates throughout Africa.

More events

July 23-26: Taking Action for Animals conf., Washington, D.C. Information: <www.humanesociety.org/about/events/tafa/>.

August 25-28: World Conf. on Bioethics & Animal Rights, Salvador, Brazil. Info: <congresso@aboliconismoanimal.org.br>.

Sept. 1-3: Compassionate Conservation symposium, cosponsored by Wildlife Conservation Research Unit & Born Free Foundation, Oxford, U.K. Info: <www.compassionateconservation.org>.

Sept. 6-9: Africa Union Animal Welfare Action Conf., Nairobi, Kenya. Info: <jos@anaw.org>; <www.anaw.org>.

Sept. 15-17: Sentient Creatures: Transforming biopolitics & life matters conf., Oslo. Info: <<http://www.uio.no/forskning/tverrfak/kultrans/aktuelt/konferanser/sentient-creatures/>>.

Sept. 21-22: Intl. Conf. on Animal Protection & Welfare, Brno, Czech Republic. Info: <www.vfu.cz/welfare/>.

Sept. 26: Gorilla Run, 7k in gorilla suits, to benefit the Gorilla Organization. London, U.K. Info: <www.greatgorillas.org/london>.

Sept. 27-28: Global Animal conf., Wollongong, Australia. Info: <<http://ro.uow.edu.au/globan10/>>.

Sept. 28: World Rabies Day. Info: <peter.costa@worldrabiesday.org>; <www.worldrabiesday.org>.

Oct. 4: World Animal Day. Info: <info@worldanimalday.org.uk>; <www.worldanimalday.org.uk>.

Oct. 15-17: No More Homeless Pets, Las Vegas. Info: <<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/info/Summary.aspx?>>.

November 9-11: Intl. Companion Animal Welfare Conference, Prague, Czech Republic. Info: <www.icawc.org>.



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www.maddiesfund.org

Undercover footage of horse slaughter shocks world (from page 1)

no criminal charges would be filed because the RCMP investigation found no intent by slaughterhouse staff to cause cruelty.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency probe meanwhile expanded beyond the Bouvry Exports horse slaughterhouse in Fort MacLeod, Alberta, where the Canadian Horse Defence Coalition video was made, to a plant that Bouvry owns in Massueville, Quebec, called Viande Richelieu, reported John Gibson of the CBC.

“I don’t believe that in an assembly line situation horses can be humanely slaughtered,” said Canadian Horse Defence Coalition executive director Sinikka Crosland.

Canadian Horse Defence Coalition member Twyla Francois told Cuthbertson of the *Calgary Herald* that the Fort MacLeod video was made on February 19, 2010, as could be verified by the audio from a Lethbridge radio station heard in the background. Altogether, Francois told Cuthbertson, the Canadian Horse Defence Coalition collected 10 hours of video from the Fort MacLeod horse slaughterhouse on that day.

“Some of the video shows horses not being knocked unconscious when shot,” summarized Cuthbertson. “Instead, when the gun is fired, another part of the horse’s head is hit, and the animal is left suffering,” while the slaughterman reloads the single-shot weapon. “The horse defence coalition alleges the heads of the horses are not being secured properly, and the shot is being taken at an incorrect angle,” Cuthbertson continued. “Some horses, the Canadian Horse Defence Coalition says, are being hoisted from one leg while still showing signs of consciousness.”

Commented Colorado State University livestock handling expert and slaughterhouse designer Temple Grandin, “Most of the problems in the horse slaughter videos are due to poor management and lack of supervision of employees. I am a big supporter of video auditing where auditors can tune in over the Internet,” Grandin told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “This prevents a plant from ‘acting good’ when an auditor is there,” only to falter later.

“The Fort MacLeod horse stun box needs to have high solid sides and a non-slip floor,” Grandin added.

Horse slaughter is sometimes done at former cattle or pig slaughtering plants, where all of the facilities were built for animals of less height and a less flighty nature.

“I don’t know the history of Bouvry Exports,” Crosland told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “but I do know that a standard cattle stun box is being used to stun horses there. Bouvry slaughters bison as well.” Crosland said.

Wyoming state legislator Sue Wallis (R-Gillette) meanwhile claimed to be consulting with Grandin about a plan by members of the pro-horse slaughter nonprofit United Organization of the Horse—an organization she cofounded—to get into the horse slaughter industry.

“The plan by members of the United Organization of the Horse is to set up something like a triage operation at the old railroad stockyards in Cheyenne for abandoned or

unwanted horses,” reported Joan Barron of the Casper *Star-Tribune* capital bureau. “The horses would be screened and provided rehabilitation, training, or slaughter, depending on their condition. The plan is ultimately to market horse meat in the state,” Barron added.

Wallis acknowledged that U.S. federal law allows horse meat to be shipped anywhere for animal food, but not across state lines for human consumption.

“Yet since Wyoming is one of 22 or 23 states that have meat inspection programs, Wallis said, the horses can be slaughtered and used for human consumption in state restaurants or state institutions,” Barron wrote.

Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal recently signed legislation to enable the Wallis scheme. “The new law allows the Wyoming Livestock Board to enter into agreements with licensed meat processing plants to process meat from livestock” collected as stray or abandoned by the Livestock Board, and “disposed of by slaughter. The meat must be sold to state institutions or to nonprofit organizations for no more than the board’s costs,” summarized Barron.

“That’s not going to happen,” Wyoming Livestock Board director Jim Schwartz told Barron. Sending horses to slaughter “is not an option, in my opinion,” Schwartz said. “In Wyoming, people love horses. We’ll continue to do what we’ve always done and try to get them sold and find good homes for them,” Schwartz pledged.

Meanwhile, Wallis told Michael Van Cassell of the Cheyenne-based *Wyoming*

Tribune Eagle, “We think we will probably work up to killing 20 horses a day,” mainly to feed zoo animals and pets. “We already have customers for those products,” Wallis said.

More schemes

Horses have not been slaughtered in the U.S. for human consumption since the last two horse slaughterhouses in Texas and one in Illinois closed in 2007, but schemes to revive the industry have also been advanced in Montana, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Montana state representative Ed Butcher (R-Winifred) “is confident that investors he’s working with,” who have claimed connections in China, “will be able to open several horse slaughtering plants in the U.S., possibly including one in Montana,” reported Ed Kemmick of the *Billings Gazette* on April 28, 2010. However, Butcher’s attempt to convert an abandoned sugar plant in Hardin, Montana into a horse slaughterhouse was thwarted, Kemmick explained, when in March 2010 “the Hardin city council passed an ordinance prohibiting facilities that would slaughter more than 25 animals within any seven-day period from opening in Hardin.”

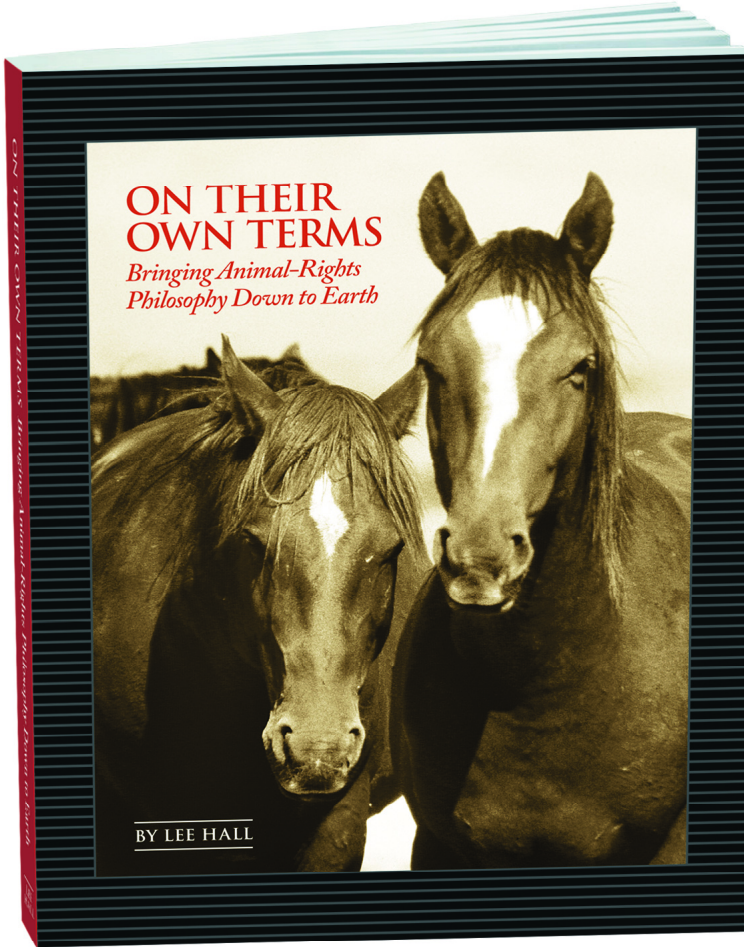
A Missouri bill to enable horse slaughter apparently died in committee in early May 2010, but resurfaced just a few days later. A similar bill introduced into the Tennessee General Assembly by representative Frank Niceley (R-Strawberry Plains) died in committee on May 4, 2010. Nicely is expected to reintroduce it in the fall 2010 legislative session.

Wrote Paula Bacon, formerly mayor of Kaufman, Texas, in an open letter to pro-horse slaughter legislators, “You should ask yourself why the residents of Texas and Illinois worked so hard to rid their states of horse slaughter plants. The industry caused significant and long term hardship to my community, which was home to Dallas Crown,” one of the last three horse slaughterhouses that operated in the U.S. “Dallas Crown had a very long history of violations of their industrial waste permit,” Bacon wrote. “Odor problems resulting from the outside storage of offal and hides persisted. Dallas Crown had a negative effect on the development of surrounding properties, and the horse slaughter plant was a stigma to the development of our city.

“These problems were mirrored at the other two plants,” said Bacon. “Fort Worth’s Beltex horse slaughter plant violated wastewater regulations several times, clogged sewer lines, and both spilled and pumped blood into a nearby creek. The horse slaughter plant in DeKalb, Illinois had a similar pattern,” Bacon added. “It was charged and fined by the DeKalb Sanitary District almost every month from 2004 until it closed in 2007 for exceeding wastewater discharge guidelines.”

Legislators in Florida apparently listened. Both houses of the Florida legislature unanimously passed and on April 30, 2010 sent to Governor Charlie Crist a bill which would make horse slaughter in Florida a felony offense, with a mandatory minimum sentence for violators of \$3,500 and a year in prison.

—Merritt Clifton



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JAAN reaches out to horses in the Gili Islands of Indonesia (from page 1)

JAKARTA—Encouraged by success with a working horse aid program in Jakarta initially funded by **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, the Jakarta Animal Aid Network hopes for similar results in the Gili Islands.

Located off the north coast of Lombok, Gili Trawangan, Gili Meno and Gili Air offer reef diving and night life that attract tourists from around the world. “No motorized vehicles are allowed on the islands,” explains JAAN founder Femke den Haas. Horses are the main means of transport.

Surveying the condition of the Gili horses during the first nine days of April 2010, den Haas “learned that the horse owners all came from Lombok in the 1990s,” she told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “Many,” den Haas found, “started with little to no knowledge about horses, as they were mostly fishers.”

The peak summer and winter tourist seasons are both dry seasons in the Gili Islands. None of the islands have much natural shade. Only Gili Air has fresh water.

“All of the horses are fed grass which is obtained from Lombok,” den Haas learned. “All horses at Gili Meno are provided

drinking water from Lombok. But to reduce costs, sufficient water is not provided. If the recommended amount is 10 gallons a day,” or 15 gallons for hard-working horses, “at Gili Meno the average horse drinks five gallons.

“Horses on Gili Trawangan are provided salty well water only,” den Haas found. “Salty water leads to serious dehydration and kidney problems. The horses refuse to drink the water, so water is mixed with their food. The horses are continuously thirsty. Some hotels have started to provide fresh water for the working horses in buckets,” den Haas noted. “But the horse owners and drivers say they can’t let their horses drink, as they will have to take off their mouthpieces, which causes them to lose control over the horses. Also they are afraid the horses will get colic after drinking fresh water,” den Haas added.

Ironically, the water the horses are given is severely contaminated with fecal coliform bacteria, den Haas learned by having several samples tested. “The horse owners were unaware that serious dehydration also leads to colic and that salty water leads to dehydration,” den Haas reported.

Because there are no veterinarians, farriers, or blacksmiths on the islands, den Haas saw, the horse owners rely on ineffective and often cruel folk remedies for injuries and disease, neglect hoof care until the horses can barely walk, and use ill-fitting horseshoes haphazardly held on with construction nails.

A further problem endemic to the Gili Islands, den Haas observed, is that “The sand is so deep on some roads that the horses can hardly pull their heavy loads through it,” and are flogged to keep them moving. No restrictions are enforced on either how much weight a horse may be asked to pull, or how long per day the horse might be worked.

“The average life of a horse on Gili Trawangan is three years only,” den Haas told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “The horse owners in Gili Trawangan make the most money, because it is the busiest island and construction work is going on all around the island to build new hotels. The owners just buy new horses when their horses are too ill to work or drop dead.” Replacement horses “are purchased at the Masbagik market in eastern Lombok,” den Haas learned. “Horses caught in the wild in

Sumbawa are brought there by truck. The horses come to the Gili islands after they have been trained to pull the carriages.”

Den Haas visited the Masbagik market on April 5, 2010, “and observed the distress of the horses for sale,” she e-mailed.

Den Haas and JAAN ventured to the Gili Islands a little more than a year after beginning work on behalf of Jakarta carriage horses. The Jakarta horses “are all now tagged with a microchip and the owner registered,” de Haas explained. “With **ANIMAL PEOPLE**’s help, we educated drivers about horse care, trained ten farriers, and provided free medical treatment to the horses. Carriage owners who were willing to improve the care of their horses were provided with license plates and regulation cards, which they placed inside their carriages, including a number for passengers to call if they have complaints.

“JAAN is willing to implement a similar system for carriage horses in the Gili Islands,” den Haas pledged. “Hotels can then ensure that only carriage horses who are well cared for can serve tourists from their hotels and be endorsed by the hotels.”

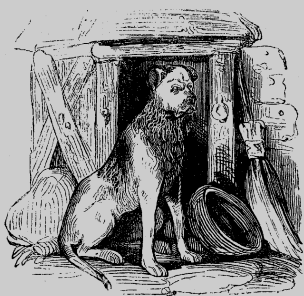


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Royal SPCA of Great Britain “prioritizes” by declining to accept surrendered pets

LONDON—Non-Royal SPCA British animal shelters and some RSPCA affiliates are still assessing the impact of an RSPCA policy decision to “prioritize” shelter admissions to “RSPCA-generated” animals.

“The only change,” insisted RSPCA chief superintendent Tim Wass to the *Times* of London, “is that spaces in our own animal centres are being prioritised for animals rescued by RSPCA inspectors from cruelty and neglect. This means that the abandoned, abused, sick or injured animals who are most in need receive our care before animals whom people simply don’t want any longer. We will never turn away an animal in need,” Wass said.

“Several RSPCA animal centers have been doing this for a number of years,” Wass continued, “and have found members of the public have been very supportive—it is common sense for us to make space for animals in imminent danger or who have been abused.”

Elaborated RSPCA operations director Nigel Yeo to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “The RSPCA comprises a national society and about 170 separate branch charities under our banner and standards but not our control. The new policy applies to the 17 national centers and to a degree the four hospitals and six clinics run nationally— although the policy is less strict there at this time. I do not know how many branches will follow the national lead,” Yeo said. Added Yeo, “We have been turning away animals for years because of lack of space. We took about 20,000 animals into our national centres [last year], including those seized as part of an investigation.”

The 169 RSPCA affiliate shelters collectively rehome about 70,000 dogs and cats per year. The next largest British sheltering organization, Dogs Trust, rehomes about 10,000 dogs and cats per year through 17 shelters.

Asked what the fallout from the RSPCA policy change was on Dogs Trust, chief executive Clarissa Baldwin told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “In great frustration, the short answer is no news. We are trying to get a handle on the numbers” of animals who might be refused by the RSPCA and come to Dogs Trust instead. “RSPCA headquarters branches will undoubtedly be following the new regime,” Baldwin said, “but there are a large number of autonomous branches who may not acquiesce. There are 58 members of the Association of Dogs & Cats Homes and I am in touch with them,” Baldwin

added. “We’ll pick up what ever we can, but will need some proper stats before a longterm plan can be put in place.”

Asked Lesley Slater, founder of the Freshfields Animal Rescue Centers in Liverpool and North Wales, “Where will all the strays go now? There is a great need for rescue kennels,” Slater continued, noting that the Freshfields facilities “will not provide enough shelter for the many dogs who are going to be picked up. It is going to be a disaster for the canine population,” she predicted.

“It is too early to tell really what the impact of the RSPCA decision will be,” Mayhew Animal Home vice chair James Hogan told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “but as yet we have not noticed anything more than the usual overload. It is our understanding that the RSPCA said their local shelters will be encouraged but not be forced to comply. We believe it will take some time before it is possible to accurately determine how this directive will operate in practice.”

Said Bath Cats & Dogs Home chair Chris Pope, “We have spent the last 70 years caring for local animals in need. We operate independently of the RSPCA and therefore decide our own priorities. Thanks to our independent status, Bath Cats & Dogs Home will not adopt the RSPCA’s proposals.”

The first major no-kill animal shelter in Britain, Bath Cats & Dogs Home rehomes about 3,000 dogs, cats and other small animals per year.

“I think when it comes to the branches,” predicted RSPCA governing council chair Angela Walder to BBC Channel 4, “they will do what they’ve always done, which is take in as many animals as they can.” Walder chairs the RSPCA branch in Isle of Sheppey, Kent.

The RSPCA policy change reached the public via Channel 4 News on April 20, 2010, after Channel 4 received a leaked copy of a memo circulated that day to affiliates and headquarters staff. The policy change was tested, according to an RSPCA media statement, by the Ashley Heath Animal Center near Ringwood, Surrey, and the Millbrook Animal Centre in Chobham, Surrey.

“This comes after the RSPCA itself complained that the number of abandoned animals is soaring as a result of recession,” Channel 4 reported. According to Channel 4, the RSPCA expected 17 shelters operated by RSPCA headquarters and 40 affiliates to accept the policy change, meaning that

about two-thirds of the RSPCA network would continue to accept all animals.

Channel 4 News said it had received documents saying “The move will allow the RSPCA to become more efficient, by reducing the need for the organisation to pay to house animals in private boarding facilities.”

Noted Channel 4, “The RSPCA had an income of £119 million in 2008 and is Britain’s eighth largest charity. This latest move is part of a £54 million savings scheme over three years,” instituted “after donations fell in the recession.”

The RSPCA is handling steeply increased numbers of “RSPCA-generated” animals in recent years. Investigating 110,841 alleged cruelty and neglect cases in 2005, RSPCA inspectors handled 140,575 cases in 2008.

“The rise is in part the result of the Animal Welfare Act, which came into effect in 2007, which introduced new offences of failures in animal welfare, rather than just cruelty,” Channel 4 News said.

British Veterinary Association president-elect Harvey Locke supported the RSPCA policy change, but acknowledged “concern that more unwanted pets may be left to fend for themselves, that people will just leave them on the streets or turf them out of their cars on the motorway. I would like to think that that would not happen,” Locke said, “but that is a risk.”

The new RSPCA policy was introduced just at the peak of “puppy and kitten season,” when accidental spring litters flood shelters worldwide.

Tracing the use of the terms “puppy season” and “kitten season,” **ANIMAL PEOPLE** learned that since shelter intakes of puppies and kittens began to be quantified in the 1970s, available records from shelters mostly in the U.S. but also in other nations indicate that about 30% of all puppies and kittens received have come in the months of March and April; 30% have arrived in the single month of May; 30% have come in June and July; and only 10% have arrived during the other seven months of the year.

The total numbers of puppies and kittens received by shelters have fallen by upward of 90% in many cities, to the point that puppies and kittens are no longer a large part of shelter intake in much of the U.S. and Britain, but the seasonal pattern of births and arrivals of puppies and kittens has changed relatively little.

—Merritt Clifton

Money crunch brings another leadership change at Wild Animal Orphanage

SAN ANTONIO—Under new management for the second time since September 2009, Wild Animal Orphanage remains mired in litigation pertaining to the leadership transitions, and in a cash flow crisis coinciding with the national recession of the past two years. But **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was told by sources with conflicting views about a variety of other matters that many of the most alarming rumors about the sanctuary circulating in early May 2010 appeared to be exaggerated.

“Our office has taken no legal action against this San Antonio facility nor do we anticipate any, at this point,” Texas Office of Attorney General spokesperson Tom Kelley told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “We are monitoring their efforts daily, nothing more.”

“We have made the proper arrangements, are currently in good standing, and are in no way getting foreclosed,” acting Wild Animal Orphanage director Jamie Cryer told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“The Wild Animal Orphanage properties are not in foreclosure,” confirmed Elise Matthes, director of Sarasota In Defense of Animals, who served temporarily on the WAO board with her husband Sumner during the most recent leadership change. The original property, purchased in 1990, was fully paid off in 2008, Elise Matthes said. Larger properties acquired in 1999 and 2001 are 62% and 84% paid off, respectively, with about \$93,000 remaining to pay, according to figures Elise Matthes provided.

Wild Animal Orphanage founder Carol Asvestas, who lives next door to the original property, told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that she had not heard the foreclosure rumor, and knew of no reason to believe it.

Asvestas directed Wild Animal Orphanage from 1993 through September 2009, assisted by her husband Ron, but after years of controversies inflamed by the *San Antonio Lightning* news web site, Asvestas was ousted on October 4, 2009 by a coup d’etat led by her daughter Nicole Garcia. Telling **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that much of the *Lightning* reportage was accurate, Garcia dropped a libel suit against the *Lightning* filed by her mother on behalf of the sanctuary.

ANIMAL PEOPLE learned on April 26, 2010 that Wild Animal Orphanage board members had begun seeking a replacement for Garcia. “On April 30, 2010 Garcia was terminated,” 13-year Wild Animal Orphanage board member Sumner Matthes said. “We learned that the board was not truthfully informed about numerous important issues,” Matthes explained, alleging that Garcia had “opened a secret bank account,” and had “not advised the board that Wild Animal Orphanage was broke.” **ANIMAL PEOPLE** did not succeed in reaching Garcia to get her response.

The situation went public on May 1, 2010, when KENS 5 News in San Antonio reported that “Volunteers at the

Wild Animal Orphanage showed up to feed the animals but found the locks had been changed. Police were called and eventually opened the doors so that the animals could be fed.” Garcia said “the animals are not in danger and will not be euthanized,” added Christopher Heath of KENS 5 News.

Appealing to animal advocates and other animal charities for emergency help, Sumner Matthes on May 5, 2010 announced that Jamie Cryer, husband of Wild Animal Orphanage board member Michelle Cryer, would succeed Garcia on an interim basis.

Said Matthes, Jamie Cryer “willingly agreed to work without compensation to assure the feeding and care of the 400 resident animals,” including 57 tigers, 24 other big cats, 219 monkeys, 22 bears, and 16 chimpanzees.

“Compassionate caregivers are still reporting to work to feed, clean, and care for the animals,” Sumner Matthes said. “However, six caregivers are temporarily working without compensation.”

Jamie Cryer, 41, has started and sold three businesses, Sumner Matthes told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and “says he does not have to work for compensation.”

“I have worked for Wild Animal Orphanage since Hurricane Katrina,” Jamie Cryer told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “during which time I spent months in and around Louisiana rescuing all kinds of animals and transporting them to the Best Friends temporary shelter in Mississippi. I still transport dogs and cats from Mississippi to no kill shelters in New York, New Jersey, Florida, Arizona and California. I have also done rescues with the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Big Cat Rescue,” a sanctuary in southern Florida.

The Wild Animal Orphanage facilities are near the Friends of Animals subsidiary Primarily Primates, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, and the Born Free Primate Sanctuary. Sumner Matthes confirmed that “We have been in contact with several organizations to seek options,” but this initiative ran into conflict with the Texas Office of Attorney General, Elise Matthes told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Elise Matthes questioned “continuing to run up huge debts with attorneys” in response to wrongful dismissal litigation brought by Carol and Ron Asvestas, with

litigation also expected from Nicole Garcia. Elise Matthes said more than \$100,000 had already been spent, with \$19,000 owing in cases involving Wild Animal Orphanage. “To spend these astronomical monies on legal fees with donations made by generous contributors to feed and care for the animals is unconscionable,” Elise Matthes said, but did not say what options Wild Animal Orphanage might have to avoid legal fees after being sued.

Sumner and Elise Matthes resigned from the Wild Animal Orphanage board on May 12, 2010, requesting repayment of a personal loan to the sanctuary of \$2,000, made on May 4. “Two weeks ago there was \$400 in the bank,” Elise Matthes said, “but thanks to that plea we sent out, \$13,000 came in. So, there is a little money to pay animal caregivers and purchase animal food. I haven’t a clue what the future will bring.”

—Merritt Clifton



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Kinship Circle & Chilean coalition help in earthquake aftermath

ST. LOUIS—While U.S. animal rescuers watched and waited for the Deepwater Horizon oil slicks to drift ashore and wreak havoc, Kinship Circle founder Brenda Shoss tried to alert the world to a little noticed humane crisis in Chile—including a growing risk that dogs might be massacred in the tent cities housing much of the displaced population of Talquahano.

Aftershocks from the February 27, 2010 Chilean earthquake and tsunami continued into May. The initial earthquake measured 8.8 on the Richter scale, among the strongest ever recorded. The entire capitial city of Santiago was moved 11 inches to the west.

Because Chilean buildings have been built to withstand earthquakes since the rise of the ancient Andean civilization, more than 1,000 years ago, the 521 human deaths were fewer than in some individual building collapses in other recent disasters.

But the earthquake, aftershocks, and tsunami caused ongoing fires and oil spills. Half a million houses were damaged or destroyed, displacing about two million people. Tens of thousands remain displaced, with their animals, nearly three months later.

Shoss, of St. Louis, won a reputation as unofficial disaster relief dispatcher for

animal rescue volunteers from coast to coast during Hurricane Katrina and aftermath in 2005. Beginning as an activist alert network, Kinship Circle has matured into a disaster relief organization with paid consultants coordinating volunteers in the field—but the Kinship Circle work in Chile has barely been noticed by U.S donors.

“We’ve had a lot of publicity on the Chilean side,” Shoss told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “but have struggled tremendously to raise funds in the U.S. because Chile has been sandwiched between Haiti, the oil spill, and the recent floods,” which hit Nashville hardest and obliged the Humane Society of the U.S. to move the Animal Expo 2010 conference from the flood-damaged Gaylord Opryland Resort to the Nashville Convention Center.

“Kinship Circle has been working with Socorro Animal Chile, a coalition of 15 Chilean animal groups and affiliated veterinarians, since shortly after the earthquake,” Shoss said. “We have been traveling with SACH staff and veterinarians north and south of Concepcion to 30 tent camps since the quake and tsunami. Most of the long-term damage and reason for evacuation was due to the tsunami. We need money for continued food and veterinary supplies and will be

deploying to work with the Chilean vets and SACH through at least June.”

Kinship Circle personnel including veterinarian Dan Meakin and information officer June Towler averted a dog massacre near Talquahano on May 7, Towler reported, but Towler expected that the risk would recur.

“Too many dogs roam the narrow corridors of this cramped tent city,” wrote Towler, paraphrasing the camp mayor. “People cannot even feed themselves. How can they feed their dogs? Strays mix with the pet dogs. Dogs defecate everywhere. No one disposes of the feces. This is a public health concern. In Chile, animals don’t live inside homes. Here, animals live in tents that are so closely aligned, there is literally no outside space around them. Some animals are well behaved. But some cause conflict with others. Most of the people truly love their animals,” Towler said. “They welcome our treatment visits. But despair propels them to euthanize their animals, rather than watch them starve.”

Towler recommended that Kinship Circle teams should “establish a daily tent city route to treat dogs for mange, fleas, and other parasites, and distribute food. However, we cannot leave full, unopened food bags,” Towler warned, lest the food be stolen and

sold. Towler also recommended that Kinship Circle teams should “build a dog park area within tent cities, to contain dogs for people without room, or who don’t want dogs inside their tents,” and should “work with tent city mayors to implement a poop-and-scoop program,” but precautions would have to be taken, she said, to ensure that the necessary tools would not be stolen and sold.

Earlier reports from Kinship Circle team members Cheri Deatsch and Sister Michael Marie described treating between 30 and 100 injured animals per day, often struggling with a lack of resources. Veterinary supplies must be purchased within Chile, Deatsch explained, because “Chile basically doesn’t allow people to bring animal-related goods into the country.”

Field clinics often consisted of just “a door-sized board laid atop two sawhorses” to improvise an examination table, Deatsch wrote. Dogs and cats arrived in wheelbarrows, bird cages, and sugar sacks, brought by people who often waited for hours for their pets to receive treatment.

[Contact: Kinship Circle Animal Disaster Aid Fund, 7380 Kingsbury Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130; <info@kinshipcircle.org>; <www.KinshipCircle.org>.]

of oil gets on some eggs, it usually means the eggs are goners. We could lose an entire nesting season,” Rowell lamented.

The spill “is likely to have a huge impact on the availability of deepwater bluefin tuna,” Sketo projected. “The Gulf is only one of two breeding grounds for the tuna. Everything from cobia to grouper could be affected, as bottom-dwelling fish who mostly escaped the spill initially will feel it when dispersal agents cause the oil to clump and sink.”

“The Kemp’s ridley sea turtle, one of the great success stories in marine conservation, is among the creatures most threatened by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill,” offered Osha Gray Davidson of *OnEarth*. “Many turtles native to Padre Island, and even some that nest in Mexico, feed in the shallow waters near shore, from Texas across the Gulf coast to the Florida panhandle. Those are the areas most likely to be hit hard by the oil spill.”

“One of their favorite foraging spots is immediately west of the Mississippi River,” added Texas A&M turtle expert Andre Landry. “If we have a wind or current change, we may see them fouled.” Thirty-eight sea turtles were found dead within the oil spill area, but at least 30 appeared to have died before the *Deepwater Horizon* caught fire. “At this point, I can’t say if any turtles have died due to oil from the rig explosion,” Landry said. “That doesn’t mean they haven’t. And it certainly does not mean that they won’t. Kemp’s ridleys eat crustaceans, primarily blue crabs,” Landry continued. “If the oil contaminates the habitat that sustains the crabs, that will almost certainly affect the turtles.”

Even river otters and mink along Louisiana’s fragile islands and barrier marshes are at risk, Associated Press writer Cain Burdeau suggested.

“There probably will be alligators and land mammals” fouled by oil, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries veterinarian Jim LaCour told Mike Hasten of the *Shreveport Times*.

But the most numerous victims, for the moment, appeared to be the “unusually large number of dead jellyfish” who washed up on an island in the Mississippi delta, reported by National Wildlife Federation president Larry Schweiger.

Gulf of Mexico oil spill wildlife rescuers prepare for the worst & wait (from page 1)

Mississippi; and Pensacola, Florida.

The Clearwater Wildlife Sanctuary and the Humane Society of Louisiana organized a standby wildlife transport team.

Procter & Gamble stocked the cleaning stations with 1,000 bottles of Dawn dishwashing liquid, favored for de-oiling birds since it proved uniquely effective after the wreck of the *Torrey Canyon* supertanker off the coast of Cornwall in 1967—the first major oil spill outside of wartime and still among the biggest, killing more than 15,000 birds.

After 24 days, the four cleaning stations opened in response to the *Deepwater Horizon* disaster had handled just 24 birds.

“In the meantime our centers in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas are in spring mode and getting busier by the day,” the International Bird Rescue Research Center

web site said. “In order to support our staff and volunteers back at home in Cordelia and San Pedro, we are hiring extra summer help.”

But no one near the oil spill seemed inclined to stand down from preparedness.

“With BP finally gaining some control over the amount of oil spewing into the Gulf of Mexico, scientists are increasingly worried that crude already spilled could get caught the loop current, a ribbon of warm water that begins in the Gulf of Mexico and wraps around Florida,” wrote Jeffrey Collins and Matt Sedensky of Associated Press. “Some scientists project that the current will draw the crude through the Keys and then up Florida’s Atlantic Coast,” to “endanger shoreline mangroves, seagrass beds, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Pollutants can smother and kill corals,”

Collins and Sedensky warned. “That could harm thousands of species of marine life.”

Florida International University seagrass ecologist James Fourqurean said seagrass would stand up well against oil, but mangroves could be killed. “Red fish, snook, snapper, and sea trout could all be impacted,” Collins and Sedensky summarized, “as could wading birds such as osprey, heron, and pelicans. Manatees could be affected.”

“In addition to the potential catastrophic losses to shorebirds on their breeding grounds and in the wetlands around the gulf, the oil spill poses a serious threat to seabirds,” said American Bird Conservancy founder George Fenwick. “Many will likely die unseen far out in the Gulf. Luckily most of the adult gannets have already headed north to their breeding grounds. In addition to these plunge-diving birds,” Fenwick said, “surface foragers such as terns and gulls are vulnerable, particularly this time of year. Most difficult to measure,” Fenwick said, “is the loss of future generations when birds fail to lay eggs or eggs fail to hatch. Many birds are incubating eggs right now, and even small amounts of oil on the parent’s feathers will kill the young.”

Erupting five days after the *Deepwater Horizon* blew up, three days after it sank, the oil spill gushed with ever-increasing velocity for more than four weeks before BP got even a portion of it under control.

The slick initially menaced the Breton National Wildlife Refuge, “home to the brown pelican, which faces a new threat less than six months after it was removed from the endangered species list,” wrote Matthew Tresaugue of the *Houston Chronicle*. “The concern is that a strong high tide or powerful winds would push the oil over the booms and onto the islands. That’s what happened in 2005, when roughly 700 brown pelicans died after a smaller oil spill from a storm-damaged drilling platform fouled their nesting grounds at Breton,” Tresaugue recalled. “About 1,000 brown pelicans now nest on the refuge’s two barrier islands, which have a total population of about 34,000 birds.”

“Oil is extremely toxic to eggs,” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service public affairs officer Denise Rowell told Panama City *News-Herald* writer Tosha Sketo. “If even a little bit

facility,” Conte wrote.

The Hudson County SPCA was in frequent chaos long before that. In July 2000 two board members were charged with criminal mismanagement, and later pleaded guilty, for not having a veterinarian on the premises and not quarantining a dog who bit a volunteer. The volunteer beat the dog to death with a shovel and was charged with cruelty.

Former Jersey City council member Thomas Hart took over management of the Hudson County SPCA in August 2000. Hart turned it into a no-kill shelter, and refused to accept animals from the Jersey City Animal Control Office, pending receipt of \$400,000 for services rendered without payment since 1994. But Hart and six staff members were fired at the end of October 2000.

PETA in November 2000 successfully lobbied for the no-kill policy to be rescinded. Hart in 2002 became head of the Jersey City Office of Animal Services.

The New Jersey State Commission of Investigation reported in April 2001 that, “While shelter officials skimmed patron fees and sold dog food for personal profit,” Hudson County SPCA animals “languished in overcrowded, poorly ventilated enclosures without adequate food, water, or veterinary care.” The report did not bring substantive changes.

Judge dissolves embattled Hudson SPCA

JERSEY CITY—Ruling that the Hudson County SPCA “has repeatedly conducted business in an unlawful manner, at a great loss, with great prejudice to the interests of creditors, in a manner prejudicial to the public,” Hudson County Superior Court Judge Thomas Olivieri on April 22, 2010 ordered that the 121-year-old society be dissolved.

“The Hudson County SPCA has suspended ordinary activities for lack of funds,” Olivieri found, while “The record clearly and convincingly substantiates that at least \$800,000 disappeared.”

Olivieri ruled in a case brought by the New Jersey attorney general, Hudson Animal Advocates, and the Jersey City Division of Health, against Hudson SPCA president Hector Carbajales, his wife Zoey Carbalales, and unnamed board members.

“On April 7, 2010 the Jersey City Department of Health and Senior Services revoked Hector Carbajales’ animal control officer certification,” recalled Michelangelo Conte of the *Jersey Journal*.

Judge Olivieri ordered the Hudson County SPCA to close its shelter in April 2008, after it repeatedly failed inspections. “Two months later the carcasses of 15 dogs, cats and a goat were found rotting inside an unplugged freezer in the fly-filled and reeking

Anderson, who “left in 2009 to focus on consulting,” wrote Moore of the *Press-Democrat*. Anderson was hired in 2004, just after the 79-year-old Sonoma County Humane Society opened an \$8.3 million new shelter.

Icard, 36, became at least the fourth member of Avanzino’s SF/SPCA team to head another humane society. Others include Nathan Winograd, executive director at the Humane Society of Tompkins County in Ithaca, New York, 2000-2004; Emma Clifford, who founded Animal Balance to do dog and cat sterilization in the Galapagos and other Pacific and Caribbean islands; and Brenda Barnette, who now heads the Humane Society of Seattle/King County after previously heading Pets In Need in Redwood City, California, and Tony LaRussa’s Animal Foundation in Walnut Creek, California.


Icard heads Sonoma County Humane Society

SANTA ROSA—Twelve-year San Francisco SPCA employee Kiska Icard debuted on April 1, 2010 as executive director of the Sonoma County Humane Society—the 16th anniversary, she reminded Derek Moore of the *Santa Rosa Press-Democrat*, of the introduction of the Adoption Pact, through which the SF/SPCA guarantees every healthy dog or cat released by the San Francisco Department of Animal Care & Control an adoptive home.

Hired by the SF/SPCA four years later, in 1998, Icard was laid off in August 2009. She was among the last SF/SPCA senior staff hired by Adoption Pact author Richard Avanzino. Avanzino since mid-1998 has headed Maddie’s Fund.

Selected over 66 other applicants for the Sonoma County job, Icard succeeds Scott

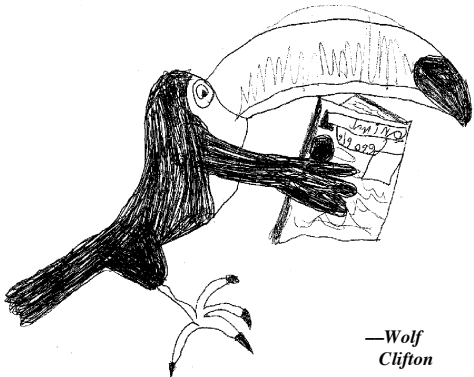
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Ringworm, rabies, parvo, feline calicivirus, & FIP challenge animal shelters

Reminders of the importance of disease control in animal shelters came in April 2010 from five shelters whose staff cumulatively euthanized more than 400 exposed animals due to disease outbreaks.

Most controversially, the Ontario SPCA announced on May 11, 2010 that it would kill about 350 animals due to ringworm, after containment and treatment efforts begun on February 22 repeatedly failed. Six workers were also infected. Tests showed that every room at the Ontario SPCA branch shelter in Newmarket, Ontario had become contaminated. Said Canadian Press, “The branch will undergo a thorough cleansing and an inspection to ensure the ringworm is eradicated.”

The Ontario SPCA reversed course under a storm of protest on May 13, after killing 99 animals. Ontario SPCA chair Rob Godfroy told media that protesters took about 15 animals from the Newmarket shelter before police restored security at the building.

“It seems out of place for the SPCA to be euthanizing such a large number of animals,” commented International Society for Infectious Diseases ProMed forum moderator Tam Garland. “While some may argue that it may be humane to do this, one has to wonder since the disease can be self-limiting, why euthanasia is the only answer here?”

The Humane Society of Greater Dayton, in Ohio, fought a similar outbreak in September 2009 by allowing individual foster caregivers to treat infected animals at home. Only 10 Humane Society of Greater Dayton animals were killed, all of them after developing serious secondary infections. The Ontario SPCA attempted that approach with about 90 animals early in the outbreak, Godfroy told media, but ringworm continued to occur in the Newmarket shelter, forcing a suspension of adoptions. The outbreak began among cats, then spread to dogs and rabbits, said Ontario SPCA spokesperson Roslyn Ryan.

“We have some standard protocols when there is an outbreak of this type,” Ontario SPCA chief executive Kate MacDonald told Canadian Press. “Due to human error,” MacDonald added, “the protocols were not followed.”

Shelter manager Denise Stephenson was fired on April 30, 2010 for failing to contain the outbreak, she told *Toronto Star* urban affairs reporter Gail Swainson. Stephenson insisted she had followed Ontario SPCA protocol for disease outbreaks “to the letter.”

The outbreak was detected soon after the Toronto SPCA was closed for six weeks of cleansing and staff retraining, by court order, after five months of Ontario SPCA administration. The Ontario SPCA charged seven Toronto Humane Society key personnel with neglect and conspiracy, in part due to alleged failure to control disease outbreaks.

Rabies

The Circle of Friends Humane Society in Grand Forks, North Dakota, on March 9, 2010 received two dogs who were found roaming at large. Sent to a foster home in nearby Grafton on March 20, one dog displayed rabies symptoms on March 25, and was euthanized on March 27.

“Tissue samples tested positive for rabies. Officials were notified on March 31,” wrote Ryan Johnson of the *Grand Forks Herald*. “State veterinarian Susan Keller said the state Board of Animal Health assessed the dogs who were at the facility from March 15 to 20, the time frame of possible contact with the rabies carrier.” Circle of Friends executive director Arlette Moen explained to Keller that dogs at the shelter do not have direct contact with each other, but Keller ultimately directed that about 20 dogs who might have had contact

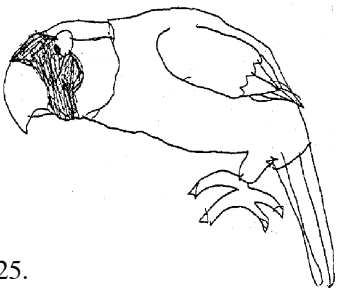
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with saliva from the rabid dog had to be killed. “This was even if their only contact was walking on the same ground,” Moen told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Fourteen people who had adopted potentially exposed dogs were given a choice between quarantining the dogs for two weeks each or having them euthanized. Moen said she did not know what they each decided. No other rabies cases were reported.

Parvo

Parvovirus caused the Royal SPCA shelter at Townsville in north Queensland, Australia to euthanize more than 200 dogs, including 50 puppies, spokesperson Michael Beatty told Josh Bavas of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on April 12, 2010. Parvo did not wholly engulf the shelter, which adopted out 340 animals during the dozen weeks that the outbreak continued, Beatty said. However, the outbreak was prolonged by arrivals of more dogs who had parvo.

The parvo variant that hit Townsville emerged between 30 and 40 years ago, and has mutated several times, said Garland.

“Recently a new strain has been reported in Europe, Asia, and South America,” Garland warned. Parvo “is highly contagious and is spread by direct dog-to-dog contact and contact with contaminated feces, environments or people,” Garland added. “The virus can contaminate kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes, and the hands and clothing of people who handle infected dogs. It is resistant to heat, cold, humidity, and drying, and can survive in the environment for long periods of time. Even trace amounts of feces containing parvo may serve as environmental reservoirs of the virus.

“All dogs are at risk,” Garland explained, “but puppies less than four months old and dogs who have not been vaccinated against canine parvo are at increased risk. No specific drug is available that will kill the virus in infected dogs,” Garland said. “Treatment is intended to support the dog’s body systems until the dog’s immune system can fight off the infection. Treatment should be started immediately and consists primarily of efforts to combat dehydration by replacing electrolyte

and fluid losses, controlling vomiting and diarrhea, and preventing secondary infection. Sick dogs should be kept warm and receive good care. Isolation of infected dogs is necessary.”

Feline calicivirus

Nicky Ratliff, executive director of Humane Society of Carroll County in Maryland, in late April 2010 suspended cat adoptions for more than two weeks to combat an outbreak of feline calicivirus.

“Ratliff said the symptoms of the infection showed up a few weeks ago, but shelter staff and local veterinarians thought it was just an upper respiratory disease,” reported *Carroll County Times* staff writer Carrie Ann Knauer. Ratliff *et al* recognized feline calicivirus after one cat developed ulcerations in her mouth. Highly contagious among cats, feline calicivirus can be spread by all body secretions. The incubation period varies from one to five days, while infected cats can shed the virus for as long as a month.

Continued Knauer, “All felines at the shelter who had the virus have been euthanized, Ratliff said. All strays who are brought in are immediately vaccinated. The shelter staff have been thoroughly and continuously disinfecting the cat housing at the shelter.”

As with rabies and distemper vaccinations, which protect animals from becoming infected in the future but do not cure animals who are already infected, vaccination against calicivirus will not eradicate the virus in a cat who has already contracted it. A calicivirus infection may contribute to a cat developing dental disease years later.

FIP

In Michigan, the Shiawassee Humane Society fought feline infectious peritonitis—an incurable, invariably fatal form of coronavirus. About 35 cats and kittens were euthanized, board president Robert Meihls and executive director Sandi Wright told the *Argus Press*.

Posted Garland of ProMed, “Feline coronavirus operates differently from any other feline virus. Systemic antibodies have no protective function for the cat and may play

a role in the disease itself. Antibody titres are meaningless for diagnosis or prognosis. A vaccine is available, but there is no consensus on its efficacy or safety.”

FIP originates as a rare mutation of feline enteric coronavirus, known as FECV, which is common and relatively harmless. “Recent research has shown that mutant FECV arises within an individual cat,” Garland said. “Thus, we now know that the vast majority of cats do not ‘catch’ FIP, but develop it themselves from their own mutant FECV.”

Although transmission of FECV is common, Garland explained, “Transmission of FIP from cat to cat is considered rare. This has caused leading FIP researchers to state that cats who are ill with FIP are unlikely to be a risk to other cats and thus do not need to be isolated” from other cats who have already shared the same environment for some time. However, a cat with FIP can potentially infect other cats with FECV.

“The peak ages for losses to FIP are from six months to two years old,” Garland said, “with the highest incidence at 10 months of age. Age-associated immunity to FIP appears to be possible. Transmission of FIP from a queen to her unborn kittens has not been shown to occur.”

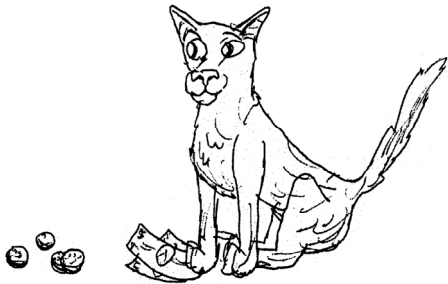
Preventing FIP requires preventing FECV. “Two main patterns occur with FECV,” Garland continued. “Most cats will become infected and recover, but will not be immune. They are susceptible to reinfection. A small number of cats become infected but do not recover. They become persistent shedders of FECV and are the source of reinfection for the other cats. The key to eliminating FECV, and thus the risk of FIP, would be the identification and removal of chronic shedders. Currently, however, there is no easy way to determine which cats are persistent shedders.

“FECV is spread primarily by the fecal-oral route and, to a lesser degree, through saliva or respiratory droplets,” Garland said. “The virus can persist in the environment in dried feces on cat litter for three to seven weeks, so scrupulous cleaning of cages and litter pans is important to reduce the amount of virus in the environment.”

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—Wolf Clifton

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The Intimate Ape

by Shawn Thompson

Kensington Publishing (119 West 40th St., New York, NY 10018), 2010. 320 pages, paperback. \$14.95



“I know more about orangutans than any normal human being should and apparently not enough about human nature,” says Shawn Thompson in his new book, *The Intimate Ape*, his account of living among these fascinating yet sometimes unpredictable creatures and the people who care for them.

Thompson’s relationship with orangutans, a threatened species, began in 2001 on a trip to the swampy jungles of Borneo. At age 50, some people think of life after retirement. Not Thompson, a writer and editor. At 50, he expanded his career by studying orangutans.

The Intimate Ape invites the reader into the complex lives of orangutans. Four feet tall, they are strong, yet shy and withdrawn. They are intelligent, using rudimentary tools. But as babies, they are as helpless as human infants. Orangutans live primarily alone in the vast rain forests of Sumatra and Borneo—as long as they are left alone.

Illegal logging strips away their habitat. They are captured by humans, mostly out of ignorance. Sometimes they are stolen from the jungles for transport to zoos.

Encroachment on orangutan habitat has reached such a critical point that the World Conservation Union and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species list orangutans as endangered. Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered.

Many dedicated scientists, primatologists, conservationists, and volunteers are working tirelessly to save this magnificent

animal. Thompson profiles Rosa Maria Garriga, a wildlife veterinarian who is originally from the Catalan region of Spain. She now works at an orangutan clinic in Pasir Panjang, operated by the U.S.-based Orangutan Foundation International. She patches up animals who have been slashed by machetes after running afoul of loggers or farmers protecting illegal palm oil crops. Garriga copes with nervous orangutans who try to bite her hands off. She could work almost anywhere, yet she chooses to stay in the jungles with the orangutans.

The best-known orangutan advocate may be Birute Galdikas, sent by Louis Leakey to study orangutans in 1971, about a decade after he sent Dian Fossey to study gorillas and Jane Goodall to study chimpanzees. Galdikas has had many run-ins with loggers. Kidnapped at one point, she was punched in the face and has a few chipped teeth from it.

The Intimate Ape treats the reader to an unforgettable journey in the steamy jungles of Southeast Asia. Some of the people whose work on behalf of orangutans Thompson describes are heroic, and a few are prickly, but most are just dedicated. Thompson also introduces orangutans themselves, struggling to live in a world that scarcely changed in millennia, but is now in constant transformation. Some orangutans are brave, some are schemers, and some act out from abuse. One hopes these are not profiles of a species we have come to know just as they are driven to extinction.

—Debra J. White

The Man Who Lives with Wolves

by Shaun Ellis with Penny Junor

Random House (1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019), 2009. 288 pages, hardcover or e-book. \$24.99.



Living among wolves, not bathing for years and eating out of a carcass, is Shaun Ellis at best guilty of bad taste, or is he just extraordinarily dedicated to his work?

Ellis bonded with animals as a child in the English countryside. His companions were frogs, ducks, and dogs. His love for animals collided with fox hunting.

“Many were the times I came across a den where the vixen had gone to ground and the huntsmen had dug her out and gassed and killed the kits,” says Ellis. That they killed for sport, not for survival, upset him.

“No one would listen to me when I tried to protest that foxhunting was cruel,” Ellis remembers. Foxhunting was officially banned in the United Kingdom about 30 years later, but is still practiced through various loopholes in the law.

Ellis dropped out of school at age 16. He worked at a few petty jobs, then joined the military, serving in Northern Ireland and Cyprus. After discharge, he landed a job at the privately owned Dartmoor Wildlife Park, which keeps captive wolves. His obsession with wolves began.

“I found myself looking forward to the end of each day when I could go and be with them again,” Ellis recalls. The more time he spent with the wolves, the more he learned about their behavior. Alphas are the decision makers and the leaders of a wolf pack, but the social structure of wolf packs otherwise varies. The member wolves each have different jobs.

Ellis broadened his experience on several trips to the Wolf Education & Research Center in Idaho, directed by Nez Perce tribe member Levi Holt. The center was involved in the Yellowstone wolf reintroduction. By day Ellis worked at the center. At night he patrolled the woods studying wolves. Then he began living in the wild among wolves, much as *Never Cry Wolf* author Farley Mowat did in 1948-1949, seventeen years before Ellis was born.

“Above all things, I wanted to be like a wolf,” Ellis says. That included eating raw meat like wolves. He lived completely apart from civilization. “I hadn’t changed my clothes in months or done more than splash water from the river now and again over my face, my crotch, and under my arms. My hair was uncombed and my beard unshaven,” he recounts.

Ellis returned to normal living, at least temporarily, during breeding season.

For months he had been accepted as part of the pack, but he wondered if the wolves would finally recognize that he was not one of them.

Ellis entered a relationship with a woman named Jan, who had three children from a previous relationship. Together they had four more children. For a while, Ellis worked in a dog kennel while Jan immersed herself in wolves.

Word traveled about Ellis’ work. The BBC broadcast an interview. So did National Geographic. A movie was made about Ellis, called *Living With Wolves*. Ellis became known as the Wolfman.

Frequent trips to Idaho, forays to live among wolves, demands by the press, and a decision to raise wolves took a toll on his marriage. “My preoccupation with wolves and building a home for them hadn’t helped my relationship with Jan,” Ellis admits.

The Man Who Lives with Wolves is a peculiar story. On the one hand, Ellis digs deeply into the lives of wolves, an often misunderstood creature who has been both maligned and inappropriately romanticized. On the other, Shaun Ellis goes well beyond the experimental eccentricities that Farley Mowat acknowledged in *Never Cry Wolf*, published in 1963.

Sacrificing family, regular meals, hygiene and sanitation to follow a passion can be ascribed to scientific dedication, but could also be ascribed to derangement. Not bathing for months is frightful.

What about keeping and breeding wolves in captivity? Among the lessons learned from the red wolf reintroduction in the Great Smokies, the Mexican gray wolf reintroduction in the Southwest, and the Yellowstone wolf reintroduction is that captive-bred wolves tend to fare badly in the wild. The successful Yellowstone releases were of wild wolves recently captured in Canada. Reputable wildlife centers rehabilitate injured wolves, and when possible, release them. Only when a wolf is so severely injured or habituated to human contact as to be unsuitable for release is the wolf kept in captivity.

Does living with wolves and understanding their behavior ethically entitle Ellis to keep wolves indefinitely and perhaps for all of their lives in a captive environment?

Readers of *The Man Who Lives with Wolves* will find Ellis either a fascinating person who truly follows his dreams, or feral and outrageous.

—Debra J. White

Made for Each Other:

The Biology of the Human-Animal Bond

by Meg Daley Olmert

Da Capo Press (11 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142), 2010. 291 pages, paperback. \$26.00.



Made for Each Other is densely packed with scientific facts and theories about the biology of the animal-human bond. Hundreds of citations back up or question the evolution of the human relationship with species including dogs, baboons, and horses.

So many intricate details are thrown at the reader, however, that the pacing is sluggish and the material is hard to digest all at once. Chapter one, for example, discusses the work of nine researchers, including E.O. Wilson, Elizabeth Lawrence, and Stephen Kellert. Ensuing chapters follow a similar pattern, as Olmert condenses lifetimes of study to make her points, centering on her idea that there is an inherent chemical attraction among living beings.

Chapter two discusses the birth of the animal-human bond and how oxytocin, not to be confused with the popular and often abused painkiller oxycontin, plays a role in that relationship.

Discovered in 1902, oxytocin is a hormone found in the pituitary gland that acts on the uterine muscles to produce labor contractions. Both males and females produce oxytocin. Rats deprived of oxytocin ignore their offspring. Some species, such as prairie voles, produce greater densities of oxytocin.

So does this make them act more maternal? In the 1990s Thomas Insel, Lawrence Young and other researchers at Emory University in Atlanta studied genetically engineered animals to investigate the bonding effects of oxytocin and vasopressin, a closely related brain hormone. Knock-out mice, as they were called, without the gene for oxytocin, would not make friends. They lost their ability for social recognition.

A lengthy discussion of oxytocin follows in chapter four. Oxytocin has a multitude of functions, such as regulating eating habits. A powerful neurotransmitter, oxytocin has a “dynamic chemistry” that produces satisfying social bonds, including with animals.

Olmert nicely summarizes how and when our relationship with dogs probably started. “Eating leftovers does not make a wolf into a dog,” she writes, “but it’s a start.” Common ancestors of wolves and dogs scavenging for food around human settlements may have begun the domestication process as long as 400,000 years ago.

Made for Each Other is obviously the product of hard work and painstaking review of scientific literature. But animal people don’t need a long line of theories to help them appreciate their pets.

—Debra J. White

Second Nature:

The Inner Lives of Animals

by Jonathan Balcombe

Palgrave MacMillan (175 5th Ave., New York, NY 10010), 2010. 242 pages, hardcover. \$27.00.



Jonathan Balcombe, in *Second Nature: The Inner Lives of Animals*, wrote the book that the long forgotten Royal Dixon tried to write in *The Human Side of Animals* 90 years earlier.

Structurally, *Second Nature* and *The Human Side of Animals* are so similar as to seem to have been written from the same outline. This may be because any examination of animal sensitivity, intelligence, emotions, awareness, communication, sociability, and “virtue” might logically progress from looking at how animals perceive the world and each other, to how they use their perceptions.

The major difference is that Balcombe has the advantage of being able to cite almost another whole century’s worth of scientific findings in support of his case, especially in an extensive discussion of behavior that indicates animal altruism and a sense of fair play. Dixon had a scientific education, and styled himself a scientist, but in his time few peer-reviewed studies existed of animal behavior, and much of the scientific community vehemently insisted that animals are essentially instinct-driven automatons, in order to excuse and defend vivisection. Thus Dixon often fell back upon anecdote, albeit with a preference for anecdotes offered by well-respected scientific observers, to make points that Balcombe makes by citing peer-reviewed studies.

The parallels between *Second Nature* and *The Human Side of Animals* are incidental. Balcombe shows no sign of having ever heard of Dixon, at least before **ANIMAL PEOPLE** extensively examined his life and works in October 2009. Though the entire animal rights movement might have been kindled by Dixon’s work, it wasn’t. Espousing goals and a philosophy that were at least 50 years ahead of their time, Dixon cofounded the short-lived First Church of Animal Rights in New York City three years after publishing *The Human Side of Animals*. The First Church of Animal Rights made a flamboyant and well-publicized debut, endorsed by celebrities, but failed within just a few weeks. Dixon thereafter lapsed into obscurity, spending most of 60 years as an itinerant lecturer.

Balcombe has now been involved in animal advocacy, often as an itinerant lecturer, for more than 20 years, working for the Humane Society of the U.S. and more recently for the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. He became widely recognized in 2006, after publication of *Pleasurable Kingdom*, a pioneering look at animal play. *Second Nature* builds to some extent on *Pleasurable Kingdom*, but examines the whole spectrum of animal activity.

Like Dixon, Balcombe explains that what are usually believed to be unique human

attributes are actually evolutionary adaptations of behavior shared by many and perhaps most animal species, even some of the most primitive. Also like Dixon, Balcombe segues from discussing animal behavior and appeals on behalf of individual animals’ rights into an appeal on behalf of species conservation.

Writing relatively close to the beginnings of conservation funded by hunting license fees, before the idea had actually been enacted into law in more than a handful of states, Dixon did not anticipate that conserving species might clash with respecting the lives and welfare of individual animals. Balcombe wrote *Second Nature* more than 70 years after species conservation came to be co-opted by “hunter/conservationists,” whose chief interest was and is in producing abundant “game,” and about 30 years after killing wild predators to encourage “game” species morphed into killing any “non-native” species as well, to try to prevent habitat transformation through species competition.

Balcombe rejects this approach, which is in essence trying to prevent evolution. “We may sympathize with efforts to secure the protection of endangered species,” says Balcombe, “but doing so at the expense of other animals is misguided and hypocritical when we continue to threaten the endangered species through our own activities.”

Balcombe goes on to describe many examples in which animals are massacred in the name of conserving rare species, while little or nothing is done to prevent the human activity that puts the rare species in jeopardy.

Unfortunately, toward the end of more than 200 pages of critically reappraising commonly held but erroneous dogmas about animals, Balcombe accepts completely uncritically the oft voiced claim that the earth is experiencing an “extinction crisis.” Indeed, as Royal Dixon knew and explained, species whose habits or habitat needs conflict with those of humans are often pushed to the brink of extinction. Some have documentedly gone extinct. Yet the numbers of species existing in almost every habitat are equally documentedly much greater now than when they were first catalogued, when Dixon as an employee of the Field Museum in Chicago was among the taxonomic cataloguers.

What is actually occurring is a vast reshuffling of the relative abundance and breadth of distribution of species, as humans move organisms around both deliberately and accidentally. The killing in the name of conservation that Balcombe deplors is often rationalized as an urgent response to a crisis, when in truth it is nothing more than scapegoating an adaptive species for habitat changes that only humans could introduce.

—Merritt Clifton

Filling the Ark: *Animal Welfare in Disasters* by Leslie Irvine

Temple University Press (1852 N. 10th St., Philadelphia, PA 19122), 2009. 176 pages, hardcover. \$24.50.



Who fills the ark in time of disaster? Leslie Irvine in *Filling the Ark* examines who is evacuated and who is left behind?

Practically everyone old enough to watch TV remembers gut-wrenching scenes of National Guard troops yanking bewildered dogs and cats away from the arms of hysterical children during the evacuation of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit in late August 2005. Some pets were shot in the streets by sheriff's deputies. Charges against the deputies were dropped in 2008. Other animals were tied up and shot sadistically in a school that had served as an evacuation center. No one was charged with those killings. Tens of thousands of pets were left to fend for themselves. Many were rescued by the largest and longest sustained animal rescue operation in the U.S. ever, but many others died before help could arrive. Others escaped and went feral. Some may still live in the debris.

Katrina brought passage of the federal Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards act, enabling pet keepers to take pets when forced to evacuate by disaster.

One of the major pet rescue centers operated on the campus of the Louisiana State University veterinary school. Yet about 8,000 mice, rats, dogs, and monkeys died in the LSU laboratories, acknowledged LSU Health Sciences Center School of Medicine dean Larry Hollier. Only 16 dogs and an unspecified number of chinchillas were rescued.

At Tulane University, 175 boxes of transgenic mice were rescued. Other Tulane lab animals who survived the storm but were

stranded by flooding were fed and watered once, a week after Katrina, and then killed the following day.

Farm animals fared little better. Ranchers mostly discussed their tens of thousands of cattle losses in economic terms. Relatively few expressed concern that the animals suffered from the hurricane winds and floods, and went weeks without adequate food or palatable water. Farm organizations fed stranded herds, but rescuing individual cattle was often left to nonprofit horse rescuers who pulled cows out of the muck as well.

Animals endure pain and misery from many other types of disasters. Irvine reviews the effects of oil spills on birds, fish, sea otters, and many other marine species who lose their lives and habitat. Rehabilitation of oil-injured animals tends to be slow, costly, reaches only a small portion of the animal victims, and has a notoriously poor success rate with many species.

Irvine points out in her discussion of animals and disasters that species matters, just as at other times. Dog and cat owners pump their fists in anger when domestic pets are laboratory subjects, but few people become exercised over the treatment of rats and mice in research labs, who are exempted from protection by the U.S. federal Animal Welfare Act.

Filling the Ark challenges readers to demand better treatment for all animals, including lab rats and mice.

"Instead of getting a bigger boat," Irvine concludes, "perhaps we can turn the ship around." —Debra J. White

Naming Nature:

The clash between instinct & science by Carol Kaesuk Yoon

W.W. Norton & Co. (500 5th Ave., New York, NY 10110), 2009. 344 pages, hardcover. \$27.95.



Taxonomy is the science of naming and cataloguing life forms. What taxonomists do is order biological knowledge. The 18th century botanist Carolus Linnaeus is widely recognized as the originator of scientific taxonomy, but as Carol Kaesuk Yoon points out in *Naming Nature*, Linnaeus' contribution was chiefly that he found a means of reconciling older taxonomic constructs to accommodate the findings of the Age of Discovery.

Heraldic taxonomy, ranking species as "higher" and "lower" according to recognized traits, had been recognized in various forms throughout Europe, Asia, and much of Africa for thousands of years before Linnaeus.

Totemic taxonomy, even older, appears to have been practiced wherever there are traces of human culture.

Taxonomic classification is implicit in Neolithic cave paintings, ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, and even in the structure of language. Yoon traces the taxonomic impulse all the way back to the need of primitive animals to recognize threats, find mates, and avoid eating their young. Babies often practice taxonomy even before they speak, "naming" animals by mimicking their sounds.

Raised in environments where the opportunity to mentally catalog nature is relatively restricted, children collect Pokemon

cards—or baseball cards, or any of myriad other objects that give them practice in ordering the world in a taxonomic manner.

Taxonomy, according to Yoon, was the original and still the most universal expression of the impulse to order. She pays particular attention to the parallel evolution of what she terms "folk taxonomies" worldwide.

Yoon discovers that experts in any given field are able to hold in readily accessed memory about 600 definitions within each of their spheres of expertise. This is, for instance, about the number of baseball cards in each year's most popular set. It is also the number of stocks that a leading stock trader can track at a time, and has many other correlates, but the prototypical set of definitions appears to be the number of species that experts in hunter/gatherer cultures recognize.

As societies become more technologically sophisticated, the uses of taxonomic systems change, for example to recognizing tools and machine parts. Yet we still use similar organizing methods, even in setting up computerized data bases.

Since Linnaeus, new approaches to ordering life have twice challenged both folk taxonomy and science. The first was Charles Darwin's recognition of evolution. Introducing evolution to taxonomy necessitated begin-

ning to think of organization in three dimensions. No longer could all of life,

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Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, & Wear Cows:

An introduction to carnism

by Melanie Joy, Ph.D.

Conari Press (65 Parker Street, Suite 7, Newburyport, MA 01950), 2010. 204 pages, hardcover. \$19.95.



Melanie Joy opens *Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, & Wear Cows* by describing guests sitting around a dinner table. The host smiles as she dishes out a savory stew. Oh, by the way, did I tell you it's made from five pounds of golden retriever? Do the guests vomit? Storm out in protest? Or slap their napkins across the cook's face?

In a second scenario the savory stew is made from marinated beef tips in a red wine sauce, served over a bed of steaming white rice. Most people dig in and perhaps ask for seconds.

Why do humans eat beef, chicken, lamb, pork and seafood without blinking, yet in much of the world are repulsed and outraged by the idea of dining on dog?

Joy describes great differences in how most people experience dogs. Even those who don't have dogs often see neighbors with them. Dogs star in advertisements and screen entertainment. Dogs guide blind people, sniff out bombs, and detect accelerants at suspected arson sites. We share our lives with dogs, but not with cows or pigs.

A college professor, Joy asked her students for their opinions about pigs. She was told that pigs are lazy, stupid, and "gross," but that bacon tastes good. She asked if any of them had ever met a pig. None had. She asked why we eat pigs and not dogs? Students believed that pigs were bred to be eaten; dogs were not. But few had ever considered why.

Joy calls this behavior "carnism." Eating certain species is usually believed to be ethical and appropriate. Why? Just because it has always been done.

Carnism is an entrenched ideology that is hard to change. I recently overheard a man say that if he couldn't eat steak, he'd shoot himself. Yet he had a dog at home. His was an extreme reaction, but according to Joy most people eat meat without considering the violence in the meat industry. Besides the abject cruelty, there is contamination to worry about. But that's another story.

Meat is big business. At least ten billion animals are slaughtered each year just in the U.S. The USDA estimates that Americans annually eat an average of at least 87 pounds of chicken, 17 pounds of turkey, 66 pounds of beef, and 51 pounds of pork. Including other meats, such as seafood, that's over 223 pounds consumed per person.

Joy describes the deplorable conditions for animals in factory farm, and the

workers in factory farming and slaughter, who are typically uneducated and are often undocumented foreigners, with little conception of having any rights for themselves, let alone that rights might exist for animals. Meatpacking is among the most dangerous and unwanted jobs in the U.S., with one of the highest job turnover rates.

Information about the meat industry reaches the public from time to time, mostly through hidden camera exposés conducted by animal advocates working under cover. The public repeatedly expresses disgust at images of cattle, pigs, or poultry being kicked or beaten by brutish workers, but consumes burgers, steaks, wings, and chops anyway.

Joy suggests that putting pictures of the animals on packaged meat might influence a change in behavior. But our ancestors and people in other nations were and are not less carnivorous as result of their much more frequent exposure to animals who were raised for slaughter. In most of the world and throughout most of history, meat consumption has risen with affluence, declining only due to hard times.

People do often identify with and spare animals who make an inspired effort to escape from slaughter. Fiction about such cases forms a literary genre, including the 28-volume "Freddy the Pig" series produced by Walter R. Brooks from 1927 to 1958, and *Charlotte's Web*, by E.B. White, twice dramatized in successful films.

Joy describes a 1995 episode in which a cow eventually named Emily fled from a New England slaughterhouse. Purchased for \$1.00 by Peace Abbey founders Lewis and Megan Randa, Emily spent the last 10 years of her life with the Randas.

Unfortunately, Joy stretches the truth a few times. For example, she says that non-meat alternatives must be actively sought out. Most major grocery stores now stock non-meat burgers and sausages, made by some of the biggest U.S. food processing companies. Most chain restaurants serve vegetarian burgers.

In a sidebar about suffering, Joy says that doctors did not use anesthesia or painkillers on infants until the 1980s. This is not a universal truth. Doctors disagreed about the age when babies feel pain, but medical literature shows that many doctors believed that infants and third trimester fetuses feel pain decades earlier, and tried to avoid causing them pain.

—Debra J. White

or anything else, be charted on a flat plane. If everything living today could be placed on a flat plane, there would still have to be dimensions above and below to represent what the present evolved from and what it is evolving to become in the future. The ongoing post-Darwinian socio-political tumult over teaching evolution reflects the difficulty of learning to think in multiple dimensions. A case can be made, however, that the rapid progress made in almost every branch of science, technology, and even moral and political philosophy since Darwin has resulted from broad use of multiple dimensional thinking of a sort rarely practiced—or taught—pre-Darwin.

The Darwinian world view led eventually to the introduction of cladistics. A clad is a biological grouping of an ancestral species and all of its descendants. Cladistics are the study of clads. Cladists are the people who do the studying. As simple and logical as cladistics seem to be, as a method of organizing evolutionary discovery, they cut diagonally through the approaches of all previous taxonomy. For example, every folk taxonomy Yoon has discovered has recognized "fish" as a unique grouping of animals who live in an aquatic environment. Some taxonomies have included shellfish and marine mammals among the "fish," but despite the seemingly obvious "errors" around the edges of "fish," the existence of "fish" as a natural taxonomic grouping appears to be self-evident.

To cladists, "fish" don't

exist, because they do not all share common ancestors who were fish, and do not all have descendants who are fish. As Yoon explains, lungfish are more closely related to cows than to salmon. "Fish" may describe an evolutionary phase, and a state of being, but is not a cladistic category.

That cladists no longer recognize "fish" as a grouping of species, Yoon argues, does not invalidate "fish" as a useful taxonomic concept. Understanding evolutionary taxonomy is essential to much work in the life sciences, but other taxonomic approaches are still more useful in day-to-day human pursuits.

Yoon touches only lightly in the 299 pages of *Naming Nature* on the applications of taxonomy to animal advocacy. Yet humane work, animal rights theory, and species conservation are all founded on concepts of taxonomy, recognizing classes of beings who suffer as result of mistreatment, and succeed or fail to the extent that animal advocates are able to persuade others to accept or reject adjustments in taxonomic definition, for instance in legally distinguishing "pets" from "farm animals," and "native" from "non-native" species.

Efforts to establish rights for great apes, based on human rights, proceed from taxonomic recognition that humans essentially are great apes, but if the test for cultural and intellectual likeness to humans crossed cladistic categories, pigs, dogs, and several bird species might have a equal claim to rights.

Speciesism, in light of Yoon's work, may be defined as simply a matter of people self-interestedly accepting one taxonomic approach over another, which might be every bit as logical but is not as easily bent to human purpose.

—Merritt Clifton

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OBITUARIES

Gopal Tanti, 56, died on May 11, 2010 after a six-year struggle with a neurological disorder that ended his career as “the guru of tranquilization,” as Tanti was memorialized by Sunderban Tiger Reserve assistant field director Anjan Guha. “In 33 adventurous years, Gopal Tanti is believed to have tranquilized 84 tigers, a dozen elephants and several rhinos,” recalled Prithvijit Mitra of the Times News Network. Tanti joined the Suderban Tiger Reserve in 1977. Standard practice, pioneered by *Man-Eaters of Kumaon* author proto-tiger conservationist Jim Corbett, was to kill any tiger whose activities appeared likely to incite hostility toward all tigers by neighbors of tiger habitat. Shankar Ghosh had introduced the use of tranquilizer darts, to capture rogue tigers instead of killing them, but Tanti discarded his methods and instead emulated Corbett, who emphasized getting close enough to do the job with a single well-placed shot. “He would walk straight into the tiger’s den and shoot a dart from very close range,” wrote Mitra. Like Corbett “Tanti often went alone. Once he tranquilized a Bengal tiger in the dark, shooting the animal in the dim light of a torch. On another occasion, he kept a drowsy tiger he had tranquilized floating in a village pond,” to ensure that the tiger did not drown. “Tranquillizing operations have repeatedly gone awry in his absence,” lamented Mitra and Monotosh Chakraborty of TNN. “In 2007 a tigress mauled four villagers half an hour after she was ‘tranquillized.’ Last December a tiger died after being shot, apparently due to an overdose. The animal had mauled three, including shooter Krishnapada Mondol.”

Devra G. Kleiman, 67, died of cancer on April 29, 2010 in Washington D.C. As a University of Chicago undergraduate, recalled *Washington Post* staff writer Emma Brown, Kleiman “raised a baby dingo in her apartment one summer and took a part-time job as an assistant on a research project to tame wolves. She spent hours in their cages doing crossword puzzles and homework assignments.” Joining the National Zoo staff in 1972, at about the same time the pandas Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing came as gifts from China, Kleiman tried for 17 years to coax them to reproduce. Eventually, Brown wrote, she “concluded that pandas are social creatures who need to interact. When the National Zoo’s second pair of pandas arrived in 2001, they were allowed to play together in a large enclosure studded with sand wallows, ponds and trees. In 2005, the couple successfully produced Tai Shan, the first panda born at the National Zoo to survive longer than a few days.” Kleiman and Brazilian biologist Ademar Coimbra Filho meanwhile rebuilt a captive population of just 75 golden lion tamarins, who were almost extinct in the wild, into a wild population of about 1,600, plus about 500 more distributed among 145 zoos worldwide. Before the golden lion tamarin project, which had a short-term mortality rate of more than 50% among the first specimens returned to the wild, only the North American plains bison had been restored to the wild successfully through captive breeding—and that restoration was begun by the Bronx Zoo more than 70 years earlier. There are now about a dozen other restorations through captive breeding that are widely considered successful, though none of the restored species have been removed from endangered species status.

If you know someone else who might like to read ANIMAL PEOPLE, please ask us to send a free sample.

Sylvia Bancroft, 93, died on May 8, 2010 in Menlo Park, California. “I met Sylvia in the early 1970s,” Animal Switchboard founder Virginia Handley told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “She was among the first animal people I met. With Ginny Shefchick she started the Humane Legislative Network, to alert constituents when their legislators were voting on a California bill.” After many years of work with the Fund for Animals and the Palo Alto Humane Society, Bancroft in 1985 founded the Humane Education Network, which developed a mailing list of 2,200 supporters, and evolved into the Animal Protection Information Service online data base. Bancroft came to animal advocacy, after a career as a dancer, as a doctoral candidate in experimental psychology who did rat studies at Stanford University in the mid-1950s. “One night,” she told Jackie Dove of the *San Jose Mercury News* in 1996, “the thermostat went haywire and all the rats baked to death. I was concerned and upset, and I expressed it. I told them if it happened again I’d call the SPCA. Everyone thought I was funny, ridiculous, because they were rats. That left an indelible memory, a feeling about the quality of caring that students were indoctrinated into—that a living, breathing animal is a tool, not a creature who feels pain and fear.” Bancroft quit the Ph.D. program, but told Dove she was not opposed to animal experimentation if it is “demonstrably vital to human welfare and there are no alternatives,” and is done with consideration for the animal. “I describe myself as working in animal protection rather than animal rights,” Bancroft added, “because the term ‘animal rights’ as currently used seems to indicate that non-human animals have inalienable rights which are now being violated. In our society animals have pitifully few such rights. I would like to persuade our society to give them some.”

Patricia Bravo, 68, died on March 5, 2010 in San Francisco. A retired travel agent, and longtime subscriber to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, Bravo donated to many animal charities.

John C. Pyner, 88, a frequent donor to animal charities and longtime subscriber to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, died on March 21, 2010.


MEMORIALS

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In memory of Patricia Bravo.

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Commissions to probe death of Kyiv Zoo elephant

KYIV—The Kiev city government on May 5, 2010 announced that two separate commissions of senior personnel from other zoos in the Ukraine and Russia would investigate the April 26, 2010 death of the Kyiv Zoo elephant Boy, 39.
Kyiv Zoo director Svitlana Berzina claimed Boy had been poisoned, but SOS Animals Ukraine founder Tamara Tarnawska produced skeptical statements from British

and German zoo experts. Tarnawska has long campaigned against substandard conditions at the zoo, which was considered particularly unsuitable for an elephant.
“In 2008, as part of a campaign to urge citizens to help support the zoo, Kyiv mayor Leonid Chernovetsky said he personally pays \$6,000 a month for the feeding and care of Boy,” recalled Svitlana Tuchynska of the *Kyiv Post*.

Stanley E. Curtis, 68, died on April 25, 2010 of a heart attack. “The foremost champion of science-based criteria for evaluating animal welfare,” according to *Pork News*, Curtis “essentially created the specialty of environmental physiology within the field of animal science,” recalled University of Illinois animal science department colleague Jim Pettigrew. A 1964 Purdue University graduate, Curtis taught dairy husbandry for two years at the University of Missouri, but specialized in pig studies after moving to the University of Illinois in 1970. From 1990 until 1998 Curtis headed the Pennsylvania State University department of dairy and animal science, before returning to the University of Illinois, where at his death he was a professor emeritus. A longtime advisor to the National Animal Interest Alliance, Curtis contended that the welfare of farm animals is best measured by physical health and productivity. “Until a pig learns to talk,” Curtis often said, “pig performance will remain the best indicator of animal wellbeing.” Curtis “wrote over 135 peer-reviewed journal articles, 150 scientific-meeting papers, and two books,” *Pork News* recalled—but his best known study tended to contradict many of his own most cherished arguments. Beginning in 1995, Curtis and Oregon State University Department of Animal Sciences researcher Candace Croney taught four pigs to push a tractor gear-shift lever with their snouts, using it like a joy-stick to play video games. The pigs were later retired to sanctuaries. Curtis intended, he told media, to improve factory farm production by

becoming able to ask the animals what they want, in terms of flooring, pen design, and number and nature of companions. What he did, however, was demonstrate the intellectual capacity of pigs. The experiment became central to the arguments of animal advocates including psychologist Jeffrey Masson in *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon* (2004) and Amy Hatkoff, author of *The Inner World of Farm Animals: Their amazing social, emotional and intellectual capacities* (2009).

Kathryn Denise Geiger Gilpatrick, DVM, 37, of North Knoxville, Tennessee, on April 16, 2010 was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver. Walter Gary Flynn, 53, of Knoxville, was charged on April 20 with leaving the scene of an accident, criminally negligent homicide, driving on a revoked license, and driving without insurance. The incident began, recounted Kristen Letsinger of the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, when two dogs named Rosalyn and Chewy escaped from the home of a neighbor, Amy Leming. Rosalyn was hit by a car. A police officer rushed to her aid. Gilpatrick came out of her home to help. Knoxville Police Department spokesman Darrell DeBusk said the officer “told Gilpatrick to wait to enter the street until he moved his car to block it. As he went to move his cruiser, she stepped out into the street and was working on the dog when she was hit.” Chewy was hit seconds later and died at the scene. Gilpatrick, employed by the Cat Clinic in Knoxville, died the next morning. Rosalyn survived, after surgery.

Suicides of suspects may be trend in animal cases

MISSOULA—A coroner’s jury on April 16, 2010 ruled that accused cat torturer Gary Lee Bassett, 63, shot himself on February 4, 2010, seconds after Missoula police with a warrant for his arrest on felony charges kicked his door open.
Bassett was among four animal cruelty and neglect suspects who were found to have shot themselves in February 2010, while accused in cases that provoked community outrage. Criminal suspects in cases that bring strong public shame have long been known to be at steeply elevated risk of suicide. Crimes against animals have usually not been associated with suicide, but the flurry of recent cases suggest that this may be changing.
Responding to a domestic disturbance call at Bassett’s home on February 1, Missoula police rescued a badly injured kitten, who was later euthanized. Found abandoned in November 2009, the kitten had been nursed back to health and adopted to Bassett by Missoula Animal Control.

The case received prominent news coverage, naming Bassett, on February 2.
Returning with a search warrant on February 2, the investigating officers found that Bassett was uncooperative and heavily armed, and “contacted mental health professionals,” reported Tristan Scott of *The Missoulian*. A February 3 search facilitated by the intervention of mental health counselors produced evidence that Basset might have abused another cat, who was missing.
Bassett shot himself one day after sheriff’s deputies in Union County, Florida, found the remains of Jeannette Lyn Brown, 53, and Tina Marie Vetterlein, 39, at their Lake Butler residence. “Evidence reveals a double suicide,” the Union County sheriff’s office said in a prepared statement.

“Autopsies revealed that each subject died from a single self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head from separate firearms.”
Brown and Vetterlein were each charged with 14 counts of animal cruelty and 14 counts of animal abandonment on September 28, 2009. Deputies on September 7 found two dead horses on their property. “Another horse died after being removed from the property and three others had to be euthanized,” recounted *Gainesville Sun* staff writer Karen Voyles. The Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services’ Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement on September 8 impounded 10 horses, two dogs, a donkey, a goat, and a bull, all severely emaciated.
Brown and Vetterlein apparently shot themselves on November 16, 2009, two days after the Union County sheriff’s department last communicated with them about the neglect case.
In Washington, the Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office and sheriff’s department did not disclose the identity of a 56-year-old man who shot himself on February 24, 2010, nearly four months after shooting a neighbor’s golden retriever in early November. The suspect was charged with first degree cruelty on February 2. A bench warrant for his arrest was issued on February 19, after he did not appear for arraignment.

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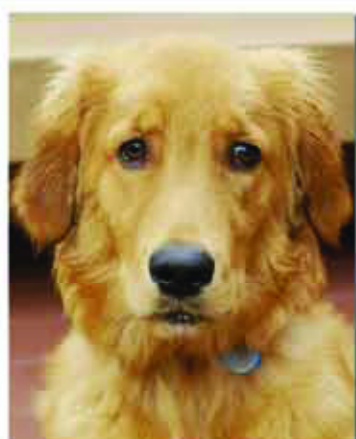
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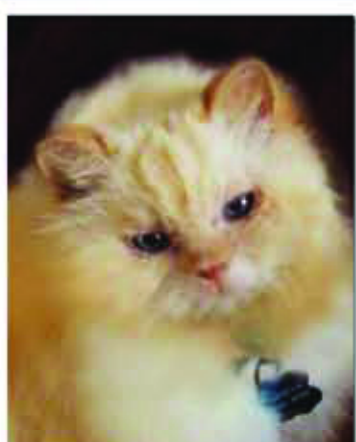


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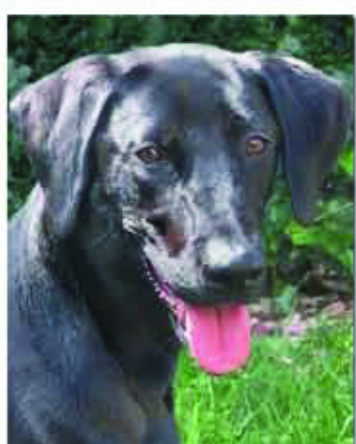
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